60¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

OCTOBER 2nd, 1980 ★ VOLUME 15, NUMBER 40

030272
E HOOKER
53 LOCUST AVE
ISLIP NY 11751

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	3:05	3:30	4:05	4:35	3:50	4:15	5:05	5:25	7:30	7:55	6:45	7:10	3:00	3:30	10/2
FRI.	4:10	4:35	5:15	5:35	4:55	5:15	6:10	6:25.	8:30	8:55	7:45	8:10	4:05	4:30	10/3
SAT.	5:15	5:35	6:10	6:35	5:55	6:15	7:05	7:25	9:25	9:50	8:45	9:05	5:00	5:25	10/4
SUN.	6:05	6:25	7:00	7:20	6:45	7:05	7:50	8:10	10:15	10:35	9:35	9:55	5:50	6:10	10/5
MON.	6:50	7:05	7:45	8:00	7:30	7:45	8:30	8:45	10:55	11:20	10:20	10:35	6:35	6:55	10/6
TUE.	7:30	7:45	8:25	8:40	8:10	8:25	9:05	9:25	11:35	–	10:55	11:15	7:15	7:35	10/7
WED.	8:10	8:20	9:00	9:15	8:50	9:05	9:40	10:00	12:00	12:10	11:30	11:50	7:55	8:15	10/8
THUR.	8:45	8:55	9:30	9:50	9:25	9:40	10:15	10:35	12:30	12:35	–	12:05	8:35	8:50	10/9

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

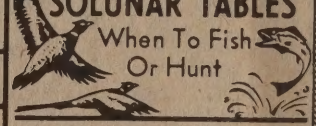
Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10/3	6:59	6:38
10/4	7:00	6:36
10/5	7:01	6:35
10/6	7:02	6:34
10/7	7:03	6:32
10/8	7:04	6:30
10/9	7:05	6:28

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/9	10/17	10/23	10/30



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	12:10	**6:50**	12:40	**7:15**
Fri.	1:05	**7:35**	1:30	**8:00**
Sat.	1:45	**8:20**	2:15	**8:45**
Sun.	2:30	**9:05**	3:00	**9:25**
Mon.	3:15	**9:45**	3:40	**10:05**
Tues.	3:55	**10:25**	4:20	**10:45**
Wed.	4:35	**11:00**	5:00	**11:25**
Thurs.	5:10	**11:40**	5:40	—

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Volume 15, Number 40 — October 2nd, 1980

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About the Cover—

The scrappy blackfish will please many sinker bouncers in the weeks ahead as water temperatures begin to drop. See articles on pages 14 and 18 of this issue for tips on taking these bulldogs. Photo by Tim Coleman.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **OFFSHORE SMORGASBORD**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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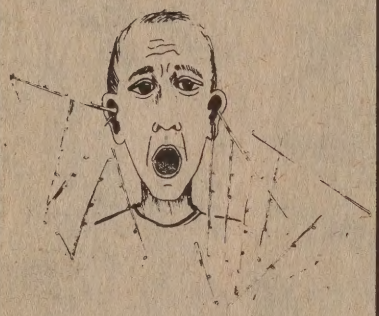

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EDITORIAL

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

FUTURE OF RECREATIONAL FISHING
CRISIS IN THE WINGS

It is rare, indeed, to find a person who enjoys being in the middle of a crisis. Few people enjoy being reminded of their responsibilities in a crisis, and an editor does not enjoy taking pen in hand to tell readers about yet another problem. Matters of such weighty import confront the editor with a real paradox: his or her responsibility to inform the readers and the knowledge that the editor's reputation as a jovial, friendly, optimistic, helpful, and entertaining friend may be compromised by prognostications of impending doom and gloom.

Let's face it, if this were a perfect world we could all write about fish species and techniques without ever making references to problems and crises. However, this isn't a perfect world and, like it or not, we can't bury our heads in ostrich holes! Well, of course, we can try to ignore the reality of the world, but that will not make the real problems go away and, in the final analysis, in ignoring the reality we would be surrendering ourselves and our sport to those who would destroy both. Therefore, please don't turn the page and please don't put the publication down. The brotherhood of saltwater sport fishermen needs your help and we need you to keep reading!

It's easy to become depressed nowadays. Long Islanders are being flooded with real problems that have come to rest in their own backyards. To mention a few, there is the reality that some of the fish that we eat may be contaminated with high levels of PCBs. We have recently been told that our drinking water may contain dangerously high levels of a variety of toxic and carcinogenic chemicals. The hard clam productivity on the Great South Bay flats is declining at an alarming rate and some suggest that the world's most productive hard clam environment may be headed for disaster. Gasoline prices have risen so high that for some people, especially those on fixed incomes and young families, the cost makes fishing a luxury. Access for surf fishermen has declined through the century, and the dumping of toxic dredge spoils in Long Island Sound could pose a very real threat to finfish, shellfish and recreation there.

However, although we cannot stop the onslaught of crisis, we can fight back successfully. Recently, the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission opened additional beach access following requests from organized surf fishermen. The 200-Mile limit has put the Russians and other foreign fishermen out of our back pocket. Together with Congressman Jerome Ambro, citizens have succeeded in passing a new law that will severely curtail dumping in Long Island Sound. There have been other successful attempts to correct environmental abuse. PCBs can no longer be dumped into the Hudson River and although it is true that PCBs will continue to contaminate the sediment in the Hudson for a long time, the important first steps have been taken. At the present time there is a study under way to determine if the Hudson can be detoxified of its PCBs and what the cost of that effort would be. There is also a study in progress to determine key factors in the vitality and decline of the hard clam fishery in the Great South Bay. We don't know for sure what steps will be taken to protect our drinking water at this stage of the game, but at least the ball has begun to roll. The New York State DEC, the EPA, and the media have informed the public, closed some wells where necessary, are continuing to test all sources, and have begun prosecution of violators.

Thus, although most of these problems have not been totally resolved, we offer them to you as examples of problems that are being addressed and which we have a reasonable expectation will be solved. In essence, most of Long Island's environmental problems are the result of overpopulation and, therefore, we may never be able to totally eradicate these problems until we succeed in reducing the population. Look, logic dictates that there are simply too many people living on this pile of glacial till. There are too many people with too many homes and industries that produce too much human and chemical wastes. Our cesspools, sumps, dumps, landfills, streams, ponds, and rivers are just bubbling with poison. There are also too many clammers taking too many clams so that too many people can eat clams. There are too many people with too many boats in too many harbors that need too much dredging; the spoils have to go somewhere. Then there are the too many who are too wealthy and can afford to build or buy homes on waterfront areas. Thus, salt marshes are destroyed, the productivity of those marshes gone forever, and more surf fishing access eliminated.

Obviously, we can't start kicking people off the Island, although we **can** limit new development, we **can** purchase sanctuaries, and we **can** protect farmland. These would be worthwhile projects and perhaps someday the full wisdom of these policies will supersede the lust of business to make "bucks" today regardless of tomorrow's consequences. Fortunately we are fighting these battles and we are making progress. If we ignored them, then Nature would have the final say. You see, there is no doubt that when the mussels, clams, oysters, lobsters, and fish are gone, when there's no water fit to drink, when there's no farms to produce fruits and vegetables, and when the sea is so polluted that no one will swim in it, people will leave Long Island. Now, when we leave, Nature will have ample opportunity to reconstruct Long Island according to her original plan.

Thus, the dilemma of the people who read the publication and the dilemma of the editor are often one and the same. No one enjoys a crisis, so thank God lots of people, using lots of effort have been making progress on many problems. In the final analysis, most of the problems discussed here are best left to those with precise expertise to solve them: the Federal and State agencies created to solve them and the people who are most affected by them. As sport fishermen and residents of Long Island, we have a vested interest in all of them, of course; but it may be best if we lend our interest and support and save our dedicated effort for those problems that are not the responsibility of any agency or government. Perhaps—but is there any problem that doesn't belong to some government group? You bet there is, and it's the one that hits us square in the teeth. That problem isn't chemical; it doesn't have anything to do with sewage, drinking water, or dredge spoils, and it isn't being looked into by a single government group, agency, or division. That problem is overfishing!

Overfishing is also related to over-population, especially as over-population pertains to the increasing demand for protein in the world and the depressed condition of the economy in the United States. Overfishing has developed as a threat as a result of a variety of factors. Some of these elements are:

1. The Federal Government now supports the exploitation of so-called under-utilized species of fish.

2. Financial support for the proliferation of the commercial fishing industry now exists. It's coming from the Federal Government, big business and private investors.

3. The economic recession/depression is quite severe in the northeast. On Long Island, there are many unemployed people who seek jobs or new businesses in commercial fishing.

4. The development of commercial fishing technology is advancing at an alarming rate.

5. The demand for protein, regardless of the sources, is increasing especially among over-populated third world nations.

6. There is a lack of effective management plans for many species—perhaps most species.

7. There have been numerous unrealistic stock assessments made by the National Marine Fisheries Service. These assessments often fail to account for the condition of inshore portions of fish stocks and frequently the inshore portions of fish stocks are the spill-over from offshore portions of fish stocks.

8. There has been a consistent failure to protect wintering grounds, migration routes, and spawning areas from exploitation.

9. There has been a consistent failure to recognize the huge importance of recreational fishing to the economic vitality of many areas of the country—especially Long Island.

10. There has been a gluttonous attitude on the part of some recreational fishermen which results in overkill for profit and ego.

11. There has been a failure to identify as commercial fishermen all those who catch fish for sale, regardless of method.

12. There has been a failure of sport fishermen to organize and be identified as a legitimate interest group. This failure has prevented sport saltwater fishermen from becoming an effective lobby in Federal and State Government.

All of these factors, plus a few others, have conspired to cause gill nets to suddenly appear at Democrat Point and at the Meadowbrook Bridge this year—both illegally set. These circumstances also help to explain why large numbers of out-of-state draggers raked over eastern Long Island Sound this spring. These factors have encouraged new fleets of large draggers, like the fleet that worked over the migrating fluke this spring reducing the inshore fluke stocks to mostly shorts. We mustn't fail to mention the five packing houses that are planned for Long Island which will have a combined per-day capacity of about 1,000,000 pounds. Since most of these packing facilities will concentrate on producing protein blocks, **all** species will be accepted, leaving

(Continued on page 34.)

NORTH FORK HARVEST FESTIVAL
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CHUM LINES

SURF FISHERMAN SPEAKS OUT ON ENFORCEMENT

As a frequent user of Democrat and Montauk Points, I am, of course, concerned about the fact that the good name and standing of fishermen is being tarnished by a small handful of non-fishermen who have no respect for the environment and the rights of fellow users of these prime fishing areas.

I agree that this is a serious situation which requires some type of action, but I do not believe that the solution lies in the revamping of the entire system of issuing beach permits. There is simply no way to ensure that an applicant for a permit is a serious fisherman or one who simply desires access to the dunes for his own purposes. Anyone can borrow a rod, reel, and some lures in order to meet the minimum requirements for a permit.

I believe that the strict enforcement of the rules and regulations of the beaches is the only way to weed out the troublemakers and protect these areas as well as the rights of serious fishermen. I, therefore, recommend that the usage fee be raised to $20 or $25 per season, and that additional guards be hired to police the areas in question. It would also be useful if some type of permanent outpost could be established on the beach so that the activities could be monitored and the violators issued summons. Anyone receiving such a summons should, at the discretion of the Commission, have his permit suspended or revoked depending on the seriousness of the offense.

It is my firm belief that the suggestions I have outlined above would go a long way towards combatting the problem of beach abuse. **B. L. Schwartz, Merrick, N.Y.**

Pass It On...

LOWER BAY ANGLERS

If you are a beginner or experienced fisherman interested in striped bass, come to the Lower Bay Anglers' Open House. The evening will center on this most prized species featuring two, half-hour 16 mm color-sound films. **The Striped Bass Odyssey** tells of its subject's spawning, growth, and migration patterns. **The Outer Banks Fisherman** is a film about a team of fishermen chasing striped bass off of surf, and boat. Our guest speaker will be Byron Young, biologist in charge of the New York Striped Bass Program. Mr. Young will give a talk

and slide show about the program he's involved with. The seining and counting of fingerling bass will, at this time, have been half-completed enabling him to relay information on the 1980 Hudson River spawning. Mr. Young will also hold a question and answer session on all species to conclude his lecture.

The Lower Bay Anglers assures their Open House to be an enjoyable as well as interesting night for beginners and experienced fishermen alike. They are a formally organized club based in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Membership is comprised of men seeking enjoyment to the fullest in the sport of saltwater and freshwater fishing. At this time they are looking for members who wish to learn or share their experience in the sport. Dues are a modest $31, paid semi-annually and entitles member to two club-funded fishing trips a year.

If you are interested in the Open House, call Marty Gazzani, AM, 212-238-2636 or Bill McCormack, Sr., PM, 212-680-5444. Open House will be at the Masonic Club, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York, on Monday, October 6, at 7PM. Attendance will be limited to the first 100 persons who call in.

MONTAUK SURFCASTERS ORGANIZATION FORMING

An organizational meeting of the Montauk Surfcasters organization, comprised of surf fishermen and women, will be held in the Chamber of Commerce building on Montauk Highway in Montauk, on Saturday, October 4, 1980 at 2PM.

All surf fishermen who are interested in ensuring a good Montauk surf environment for the future are invited to attend and hopefully, to join.

ATTENTION!!

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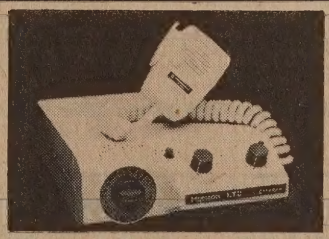

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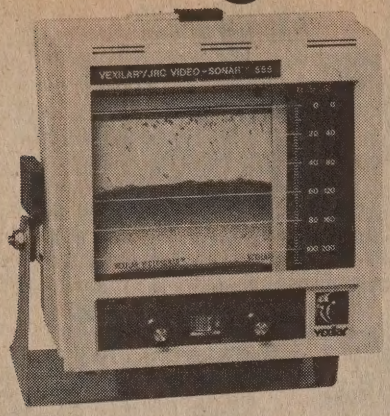

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As this is being written the biggest run of giant tuna in memory is occurring in the Mud Hole off the north Jersey coast. Fishermen who never before even thought of fishing for giants are out there hooking tuna every day and, by the looks of it, the run may continue for some time. However, the fishing had hardly started before worries about permits and the filling of the quota started. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agents are starting to crack down on violators of the permit

NATIONAL SCENE

with Al Ristori

TUNA SITUATION IS CHAOTIC

requirement, and at the rate fish are being caught, the quota will be filled in the near future.

The permit requirement is a big problem for the average angler. While free, they must be applied for—and that means a delay just when the fishing is hot for those who didn't follow my advice earlier in the year. For quite some time I've been advising fishermen to send away for the permit—just in case they should want to jump into a sudden run of giants, or they should catch one while fishing for some other species. All it costs is a fifteen cent stamp to obtain an application, and another fifteen cents to mail it back. Once the permit is granted, it stays with the boat indefinitely.

Of course, if you haven't obtained a permit already, you may not be able to do so this year before the season is all over. While the procedure is simple, it is time consuming. Your best bet is to call NMFS in Gloucester (617)281)3600) for the application and then get it right back to them: Federal Building, 14 Elm St., Gloucester, MA 01930. Permits are issued only on Thursdays, which can mean another week's delay if you don't get your application in on time. Unfortunately, there is no provision for issuing these permits through local NMFS offices.

There is some question at this point as to whether the tuna permits are even worth having from the NMFS point of view. As of this year, it's only the dealers who must report to NMFS. No longer do individual boat owners have to place tags in their fish or fill out a log book. NMFS has over seven thousand tuna permit holders and all must be notified of changes in the catch rate or the closing of the season. This is both costly and time consuming, and I fail to see what great advantage there now is in having such a list. NMFS would be well advised to drop the permit system for other than commercial fishermen.

Are these permits actually checked? NMFS enforcement is sporadic at best, but the permits are part of the present Federal regulations and they must be enforced. On Tuesday, September 16, I was aboard Captain Bob Pisano's charter boat "Ol Salty," out of Belmar, when a Coast Guard cutter moved into the Mud Hole tuna fleet and put over a small boat. As luck would have it, we were the first to be boarded. Perhaps the Coast Guard was attracted by the six hundred pound tuna hanging off the gin pole, or maybe they had heard that Bob Pisano is probably the most successful tuna skipper in the Jersey fleet. In any case, the boarding party did check both the tuna permit and Bob's captain's license. There was no NMFS agent along in this case. The executive officer from the cutter handled the inspection. The whole operation was handled with courtesy, but the boarding party obviously knew nothing about either tuna fishing or the regulations. The executive officer had a copy of the regs with him and seemed concerned about the measurements of the fish—which would only be of significance if it were in the three hundred pound area. Three other boats in the area were also checked, apparently at random.

As far as the quota is concerned, I'm taking quite a risk by saying anything about it well over a week in advance of the publication date. However, it's likely that the quota wil remain open for awhile—unless the fishing continues at a red hot pace. When I returned to Belmar on September 16, there was a rumor sweeping the dock that the season was to be closed the following night. I called the new tuna coordinator (replacing Bruce Freeman) at Gloucester the next day and found that the rumor was just that. According to Bill Jerome, their records only showed about fifty giant tuna from the southern area prior to the weekend of September 13, and there was no consideration of closing the quota in the near future. Even if the fishing were to continue hot and heavy, it would take about a week just to put out all the notices required once it appeared that the quota would be reached within a few days.

The key factor is getting a notice into the Federal Register, and there are also press releases to be issued and notices to be sent to over seven thousand permit holders. One reason that most fishermen are so concerned about the quota is the figure of two hundred seventy fish which everyone seems to think is the limit. Actually, the quota for the area south of Cape Cod is 90 short tons. Based on the average size of the giants caught at Gloucester, NMFS estimated that at a rate of three to a ton, this would amount to two hundred seventy fish. However, the giants caught off Block Island this summer were primarily in the three to four hundred pound class and although some huge fish have come out of the Mud Hole, the average off the Jersey coast has probably been in the five hundred pound class. Therefore, if the overall catch south of Cape Cod averages out to about five hundred pounds, it will take about three hundred sixty tuna to fill the 90-ton quota.

Though we may well have more fishing left than many had assumed we would, the fact remains that the sportsman is ending up with a poor deal on the tuna regs. With tuna not included in the 200-Mile limit, it is the American fisherman who must suffer in order that Japanese longliners may take over 8,000 giants from our waters each year. While this great Mud Hole run may serve to distract us from the real situation, there seems to be little doubt but that giant tuna are declining. The run in Massachusetts Bay this summer has been the worst since the chumming started in 1971. By September 8, only 800 out of the 2,400 fish quota for that area had been taken by all handgear fishermen—harpooners, handliners and those using rod and reel. The regulations this year provided for poorer fishing (the quota never was filled in 1979) by increasing the number of fish allowed per boat day as the season advanced, as long as the catch to each cutoff date hadn't exceeded a certain percentage of the total quota. By early August, boats were allowed two giants per day, and on September 13 that limit was upped to four per day. The quota would have had to be sixty percent filled by September in order to stop that increase, but only one-third had been taken.

The one encouraging aspect of this is the appearance of so many three to four hundred pound fish at Block Island this summer. These are presumably members of the only good year class since the early Sixties: the 1973 fish. They were also the first to receive some protection, and are our main hope for perpetuating the fishery. The picture is certainly not bright in terms of schoolies. The "footballs" just have never shown up in any quantity so far this year.

It will be a shame if the giant tuna season is closed prematurely this year, but it may also serve a purpose by getting enough fishermen mad enough to get off their butts and work for inclusion of tuna in the 200-Mile limit! As my letter to NMFS northeast director Allen Peterson (published in the September 18 issue) indicated, the sportsman has been supporting the tuna conservation effort, but getting the short end of the stick in return. I've often kidded about the fact that sport fishermen would probably never achieve any political unity until someone threatened to take away their rods. Perhaps the closing of the tuna season while the fishing is hot will serve the same purpose!

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

OCTOBER WINNER

HOW OLD ARE THESE? There are many indications that our readers are extremely knowledgeable about marine environments and ecology. Our readers don't just want to know where the fish are, but also want to know why they are there. That's impressive because it means that we are concerned and we are curious. Thus, when all is said and done, fishermen on Long Island put all the knowledge together and are better anglers. Many readers have an insatiable curiosity about the age of fishes, where they migrate, and why they migrate. Questions in this vein have surfaced again and again over the years. They aren't always asked in the same way because each person has their own reason for asking, but they share the same intent on the whole. For these and other reasons, we at The Fisherman, took a liking to one of the letters that was sent in for the Win-A-Shakespeare Rod Contest. The letter was sent in by Don Troy of Hauppauge.

HE WRITES! "In order to have a better understanding of the marine environment surrounding Long Island, and the life cycles of the marine life we pursue as sportsmen, I would like you to give me and the readers, your estimate of the ages of the following animals: 1½ lb. flounder, 2 lb. Boston mackerel, 5 lb. striped bass, 5 lb. bluefish, 5 lb. weakfish, 2 lb. lobster, 5 lb. fluke, and a 10 lb. cod. The above list, I believe, is a fair representation of desirable angling sport and/or table fare. The answers may surprise some and motivate others to take home only what they can eat from our precious waters."

RIGHT ON THE MONEY. Don, it was the last sentence which really showed a lot of insight. Frequently people believe that the sea can replenish itself almost instantly. However, this is not the case, as you obviously already know. The demand on seafood, not just fish, is tremendous and it behooves us to save a little for the next day, next year, and next generation. For example, it takes about **seven** years for a lobster to reach market size—which is about one-and-a-quarter pounds! True, recent genetic and nutritional research has reduced that time by about forty percent, but in Nature it still takes about seven years. That explains why lobsters are so expensive. Thus, a two pound lobster will be about ten to twelve years. This estimate brings us to another important point. We cannot and should not say that a fish of a given weight is of a certain specific age. That's because all fish of a given species do not grow at the same speed. Perhaps you can recall when you or a friend kept tropical fish. Perhaps they or you also attempted to spawn some of the easier to spawn egg layers like mountain white clouds and pearl gouramis. When successfully spawned, a small tank would be littered with almost microscopic fry once the eggs had hatched. In the early days, all the fry are the exact same size and the exact same age. However, as the weeks go on, several of the fry will begin to grow faster than the others. This may be due to a variety of reasons, but the most important are luck and genetics. Just like people, fish have genes that control what they are. Tall people have genes for "tall" and short people have genes for "short." Also, the speed with which a person gets to their maximum size is controlled genetically. Therefore, some people grow fast and quickly; while others may grow more slowly, but for a longer period of time. Likewise with fish. Now luck plays an important part too, because the specimen must avoid illness and parasites and often in the first few days of life it is important whether or not the fry are close to the food when it is introduced. After all, how far can a tiny fish swim. It seems that some critters are always in the right place at the right time, while others are always on the opposite side of the tank at feeding time. I used to try and introduce some food to the other side, but invariably they'd swim past it. I think that's the fish equivalent to Murphy's Law.

ONLY A GUESSTIMATE! Therefore, in relating the age of a fish to its weight, one can only provide a guesstimate. These estimates are based upon countless measurements made by scientists. These measurements are then treated statistically to arrive at an average. If we keep this fact in mind, then we can venture a guess here and there. Actually, we aren't talking about my own research but rather the work of many scientists.

HERE GOES! A one-and-a-half pound (blackback) flounder is probably three to four years old. The key factor here is probably water temperature. In colder water, such as off New England, the growing season is shorter and it may take five or six years for the fish to reach this size. Here in the southern part of the range the fish may grow faster. However, the same fish may not remain in the same area all of its life and, thus, may be exposed to several types of seasonal temperature patterns. Tagging studies confirm that blackback do move around a lot. The cyclical patterns of natural food are always important. Some years the small invertebrates favored by flounder are more abundant than in other years.

A TWO POUND BOSTON MACKEREL. We talked about the slow growing lobster—well, now meet the fast growing mack. The open ocean or pelagic fishes are the fastest growing fish. It only takes about three years, for example, for a sailfish to reach sexual maturity and a weight of about fifty or sixty pounds. Thus, a two pound mack will be about two to three years. Again, the exact size will vary depending upon natural conditions.

A FIVE POUND STRIPED BASS. With bass there is yet another confusion since males and females grow at different rates. A female will weigh about five pounds at about five years, while the male needs about another year to reach that weight. The controversy of striped bass management often focuses on this fact. Original thinking suggested that a suitable legal limit should be sixteen inches, thus allowing the fish to spawn once. However, more recent information indicates that this may not be so and that perhaps many of the fish are older before the first spawn. Second, some have suggested that the females in the five to ten pound range may be the most important breeders overall when one takes into account both egg productivity and the numbers of females of the age available. For this reason, some have suggested that the legal size limit should be twenty or even twenty-six inches. The final management plan is still a few years away, but it will be interesting to see what legal size is agreed upon by all the coastal states.

A FIVE POUND WEAKFISH. Weaks, bass, and blues have similar growth rates, although weaks may be a little slower than bass. A five pound weak is probably about six to seven years old and much the same is true for the blues. Now, when it comes to blues we have to be a little careful since the most recent evidence indicates that there are perhaps five subspecies of bluefish in our Atlantic waters. That is, the bluefish is in the process of evolving into five or so separate species and if we come back in a few million years, that may well be the case. Now, from an evolutionary point of view, as the subspecies develop from a single species, certain genetic traits begin to differ and these differences allow each subspecies to adapt to a slightly different ecological niche. That is, the ecological niche is the way or manner in which a species, or in this case subspecies, survives. Some scientists have suggested that these subspecies of blues differ most noticeably by size. It has been suggested (without conclusive evidence) that the smallest subspecies may reach a maximum weight of about five to eight pounds, while the largest may reach fifty pounds! Now, what has not been made clear is whether or not all the subspecies grow at the same or similar rate and then simply live for different lengths of time, or whether the life spans are about the same and the growth rates are different. Then,

too, a mix of the two may be reality. Until this question has been solved with some basic marine research, we should not be too quick to sweepingly assign an age to a blue of a given weight. One thing for sure, I'd like to figure a way to change all the blues in our area into the fifty pound monsters that I've heard roam the waters off South Africa!

A FIVE POUND FLUKE! Scientists estimate the age of a given fish by taking a scale and then counting the number of rings. Actually, it turns out that this is less accurate than we would like and, therefore, in recent decades scientists have been examining the otoliths or ear bones of the fish for a more accurate estimate of the age of a fish. Fluke may be more difficult to compare age and weight than some people may assume. This is because fluke seem to have a larger spawning range than was originally suspected. In our area fluke spawn during winter on the Continental Shelf in about fifty fathoms of water. However, it has been found that fluke also spawn closer to shore in the southern part of the range and at a different time of the year. Now we know that fluke like to migrate inshore and offshore, but we aren't sure whether or not they move too far north and south. Thus, fish that don't migrate north/south to any great extent may grow faster due to warmer waters, while fish up north may grow slower. Also, if the fluke at different latitudes don't mix much, then it is possible that the fluke is also in the process of evolving into different species. It's an interesting thought and one that will require some research in order to resolve. However, in general, your five pound fluke will be between four and five years old.

TEN POUND COD! We're in the same boat with the codfish. In fact, Nature takes matters one step further with the cod. There is a rule that was investigated and formulated by a scientist named Jordan. Naturally it's called Jordan's Rule. Simply, it states that fish from colder water have fewer vertebrae (or backbones) than specimens of the same species from warmer waters. Cod, after all, extend from the coldest waters of the North Atlantic to the much warmer waters of the middle ocean off the middle Atlantic States. Now, it is true that cod at the southern edge of their range do not migrate inshore and thus, the deep water is consistently on the cool side; nonetheless, the deep water in the North Atlantic will be colder. Thus to answer your question, we must include a very large spread in order to account for fish grown in icy water as well as fish from warmer water. I believe that a range of seven to ten years should cover your ten pound cod regardless of where it was hatched and raised.

THANKS. Once again, we'd like to extend our thanks to the many readers who have written in to this column this year. The letters have been intelligent and valuable for the most part and Don, your letter was no exception. Your **Ugly Stik** is on the way to you. Although much of the fishing season is over, you may still have time to get in a few last licks with fall flounder.

WE DIDN'T FORGET! Our thanks to a few others who have written in, but to whom we haven't had a chance to respond. I'd like to take this opportunity to respond briefly to some of these letters. Eric Cisar recently inquired about how to get the most out of several rod and reel outfits. Eric, that's a hard one for us to answer because a lot depends upon taste and area fished. I've been accused of usually fishing tackle that's too heavy, but it suits me fine for what I intend. In the surf up here I'll use an eleven foot stick even for weaks, but since I release most of my fish, I find I can land them without inducing shock with the heavier gear. However, when I go to tropical waters I'm usually fishing with tiny wands and skinny threads. So I'm weird! To Tony Schiavello, a past winner of a Shakespeare Ugly Stik, I can't tell you what those growths were. I'd need to see the flounder in question, then to study them. Even then a positive I.D. might not be possible. However, we can guess that they were most likely either tumors or parasite pouches. In either case, you can still eat the fish. To Robert Ulsehmid of Glendale who inquired about the identity of several reels given to him, I can suggest that you take them to a local tackle dealer. The odds are that the store owner has either seen them before or can find out for you. Sorry that we could not be more help on that one.

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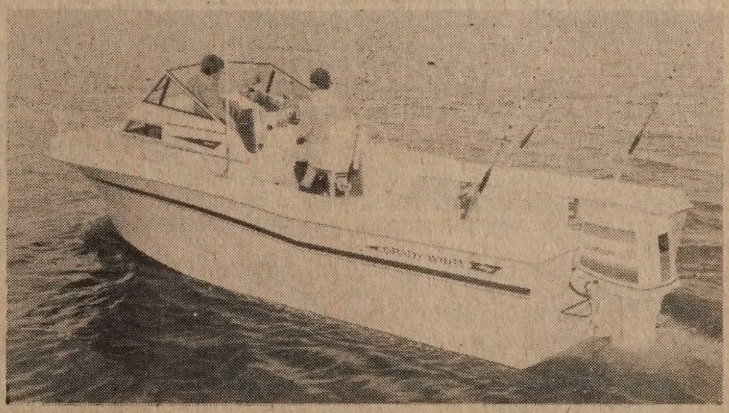

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Letters—they arrive like clockwork...or just about. It is indeed a rare day when John our mailman fails to stop out front. He delivers inquisitive letters, humorous letters, happy letters, sad letters, all types of letters. Letters which come from auto mechanics, plumbers, doctors, lawyers, dentists, businessmen of large commercial establishments, party boat mates, ex-party boat mates, underwater photographers, skin

"LETTERS"

divers, commercial photographers, editors of various publications, kids awed by those old-time stories depicting fishing the way it was not too many years ago, and in one instance, a beautiful letter from a priest who loves codfishing so much, he is affectionately known aboard his favorite party boat as the codfather.

Name a vocation and it's quite likely someone involved has written.

All these letters have one thing in common: regardless of each individual's walk in life, each are written by fishermen; fishermen who enjoy sharing their thoughts, dreams, and expectations with readers of this column.

Along with these letters, many fishermen send samples of hooks which have been purposely snelled for various experiments; plus homemade flounder, fluke, and cod rigs equipped with extra-long leaders to suit fishing conditions previously encountered, or those which these dedicated fishermen expect to meet in the future. I have tried them all under the very conditions for which they were fashioned and have nothing but good things to report. Fishing books often come my way, too—and some, I must say, are very expensive.

And photos—well, let me tell you about photos.

Those good folks who read The Fisherman send me photos of leaping marlin, enraged sharks, monster cod and pollack, huge sea bass, blackfish, blues, and fluke. Charlie Wanderer of Flushing sent me a photo of two Plum Island blackfish which fair took my breath away. For a few seconds there I thought I was reliving those long-gone days. Charlie, this old gray head can't stand many more shocks like that.

But it isn't only photos, hooks, and books these fine folks send. One fsherman, Matty Kaspak of St. James, a professional musician, sent me a commercial cassette of his latest composition which has to do with fishing. Well done, Matty.

All of which has caused my wife to comment that every day seems to be Christmas for me. And I guess it is. I never know what I'll find when I return from fishing, but I know it will be something.

Some fellows think nothing of sending three or four-page, single-spaced typewritten letters about the good fishing they experienced in the old days. Some of these stories are excellent and it is too bad the Old-Timers' Letter Contest wasn't going on at the time of receipt, for many would have won that Shakespeare spinning reel now offered each month as a prize for the best letter.

Many readers also go into great detail relating their efforts to improve on their experiments, experiments which often make the difference between fish and no fish. As Lennie Stokes of Patchogue said in his letter on this subject: "If you don't experiment, forget it, for bottom fishing is one tough game." As many of us know, that's certainly true enough.

Some readers who would like to become fishing writers ask for information. Because the writing game can be extremely difficult, I always make an effort to lend encouragement. These fellows send manuscipts which I don't mind going over with my editing pen.

Many letters I receive are in the vein of one sent by Sam Garcia of Brooklyn. Sam wanted to know why I go into such detail about old-time fishing. "I enjoy the stories and all that, Matt; but what's the point?" he asks. "All those days are long gone, never to return. Why all the effort?"

Well, Sam, as I replied in my letter, the point is simply that it is my desire to make today's fisherman realize what he has lost by being complacent and thereby allowing the "powers that be" to ride rough-shod over him, while he could do nothing more than offer a mere whimper of protest. It certainly wasn't the sport fisherman who brought fishing to its present condition. It certainly wasn't the sport fisherman who encouraged the theft of his birthright. But the sport fisherman must shoulder some of the blame for his failure to speak out in a voice loud enough to be heard where and when it counted. It took the combined efforts of foreign fishing fleets committing rape in our backyard before most of us became incensed enough to make ourselves heard. On that one, we barely locked the barn door before the horse was stolen.

So, Sam, to make today's fishermen aware of their loss is one of the reasons for the Old-Timers' Corner column, plus of course, the enjoyment of the stories for their own sake. We sport fishermen of today must vow that such betrayal of American fishermen shall never happen again; we must assert in a loud, clear, strong voice that we, too, have a say in the matter.

Now that we've nearly arrived at the end of this column, I again say thank you to all those who took the time to write. I know for many of you it means also taking time out from a busy schedule. Your efforts on behalf of all fishermen are greatly appreciated. And not only that, I've gained many new friends who are not only excellent fishermen, but wonderful, kind gentlemen.

And we must not forget the ladies. Their letters are most interesting. Many relate their own experiences, plus that of fathers and husbands. And from what I can gather from these letters, the girls are catching up fast. To this let me say we fellows better look to our laurels, for the ladies are quite good at the game.

Below is a list of readers who have been kind enough to get in touch. If you don't find your name, rest assured that you will in the next column on letters. There are still several hundred to go. Lack of space is the reason for this.

My thanks to: Andy Antonwink, Golden's Bridge, New York; Don Alvino, Valley Stream; Manuel Batista, Brooklyn; Stuart Brill, Brooklyn; Al Brown, Bridgeport; Bill Busch, Warwick, New York; Herb Bush, Brooklyn; John Caprino, Brooklyn; Pete Carey, North Massapequa; Jim Castagna, Southold; Steve Casola, Massapequa; Stanley Chepinskas, Riverhead; Vern Clifford, Amityville; Mark Colavecchio, Brooklyn; Kevin Cooper, New York City; Henry Cowen, Albany; Nickolas Ferrar, Holbrook; Frank Ferraro, Canarsie; James Fitzgerald, Dundalk, Maryland; Joe De Franco, Auburndale, New York; Michael Fuchs, Whitestone; Pete Geanacopoulos, Elmont; Sam Garcia, Brooklyn; Art Glowka, Stamford; Andy Granelli, Brooklyn; Tom Gravino, North Lindenhurst; Art Greenspan, Bethpage; Harry Gugler, West Islip; Walter Gurzynski, Douglaston; John Hahn, Flushing; Barbara Herrara, Brooklyn; "Whitey" Hodgets, Valley Stream; Frank Horan, Massapequa; Martin Hyman, Ph.D., New York City; Darrell Joyce, Bloomingdale, New York who graciously sent a photo he took of me in my better days; Matty Kaspak, St. James; Joe Kershaw, North Bellmore; Ira Kitograd, Oceanside; John Kobek, Bronx; Steven Korman, Douglaston; James Kiwecinski, Seaford; Michael La Corte, Sr., West Sayville; Paul Lamberti, Staten Island; Steven Lane, Centereach; Rich Lendino, Massapequa; Arnold Levy, Freeport; Mike Levy, New Hyde Park...

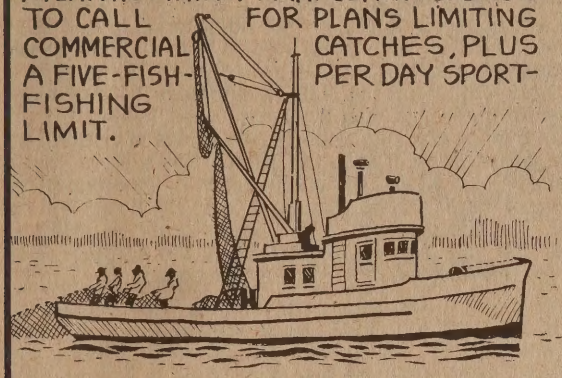
And to continue: Dan Malaszczyk, Wantagh; Joseph Mazimuto, Brooklyn; Anthony Medoro, Flushing; Bob McNeil, Hampton Bays; Michael Meisel, Brooklyn; Charley Messina, Huntington Station; Lee D. Miller, New York City; Tom Mistretta, Floral Park who sent me beautifully snelled hooks; Mario Monaco, Bellport;

(Continued on page 15.)

FISH & GAME NEWS

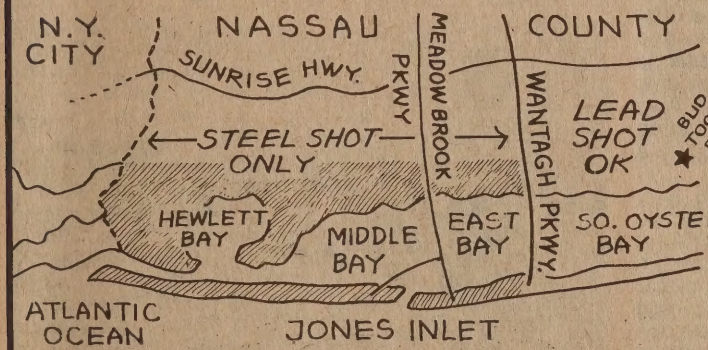
BY FRED GUARDINEER

BLUEFISH LIMITS? COMMERCIAL HAULS OF 500 TONS OF BLUEFISH BY EAST COAST U.S. TRAWLERS INSIDE THE 200-MILE LIMIT HAVE SPARKED THE MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO CALL FOR PLANS LIMITING COMMERCIAL CATCHES, PLUS A FIVE-FISH-PER DAY SPORT-FISHING LIMIT.



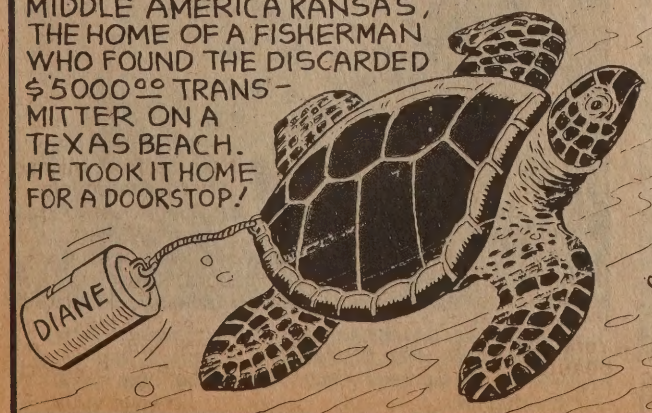
CHANNEL CATFISH BROKE N.Y. STATE RECORDS FIVE TIMES THIS SUMMER. A BIG 23 LB. 14¾ OZ. CAT FROM ONEIDA LAKE BROKE THE STATE RECORD OF 19 LB. 10 OZ. OTHER ONEIDA LAKE CATS CAUGHT WEIGHED 20½ LBS., 21 LBS. AND 22 LBS. 8½ OZ. A FIFTH CAT FROM SULLIVAN COUNTY'S WHITE LAKE SCALED 20 LB. 9½ OZ. MOST OF THESE FISH HIT LURES INSTEAD OF THE USUAL BAIT OF TASTY NIGHTCRAWLERS OR CHICKEN ENTRAILS.

STEEL SHOT REGULATIONS FOR DUCK HUNTING HAVE BEEN REDUCED IN N.Y. STATE. *LONG ISLAND'S* STEEL SHOT ZONE IS CONFINED TO THE BAYS BETWEEN *WANTAGH PKWY. AND THE N.Y. CITY LINE. ALL SHOT* IN THIS AREA *MUST BE STEEL* REGARDLESS OF GAUGE. STEEL SHOT NOW COMES IN 10, 12 & 20 GAUGES - BUT YOU BETTER SHOP EARLY!



CANADA GEESE WERE ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION IN THE EARLY 1920'S. NOW THEY HAVE BECOME SO NUMEROUS THAT SOME EXPERTS FEAR THEY MAY OVERPOPULATE THEIR BREEDING AREAS, NOT TO MENTION GOLF COURSES!

A 212 LB. LOGGERHEAD TURTLE NAMED *DIANE*, OUTFITTED WITH A TRANSMITTER, WAS TRACKED BY SATTELITE FROM OCT. 16, 1979 TO JUNE 15, 1980 WHEN SHE SHED THE DEVICE AFTER TRAVELLING 800 MILES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AREA. THE BEEPS CONTINUED HOWEVER IN MIDDLE AMERICA KANSAS, THE HOME OF A FISHERMAN WHO FOUND THE DISCARDED $5000.00 TRANSMITTER ON A TEXAS BEACH. HE TOOK IT HOME FOR A DOORSTOP!

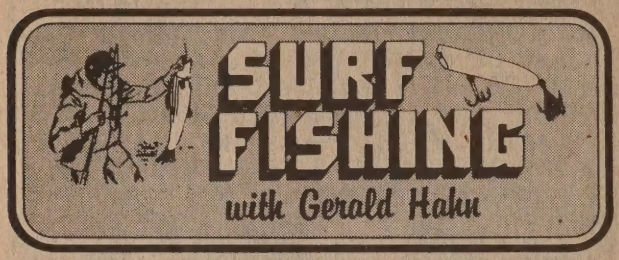


MUSKELUNGE TOURNAMENT... THE FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MUSKELUNGE TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD OCT. 11-12 ... CANADA VS. U.S.A. OUT OF GANOQUE, ONTARIO, ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER OPPOSITE CLAYTON, N.Y. TO APPLY FOR 40-MAN U.S. TEAM CONTACT *HAROLD HERRICK*, BOX 92, CAPE VINCENT, N.Y. 13618 OR CALL 315-654-2068.

BEST FISHING DAYS FOR OCTOBER

WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN *NEW AND FULL* ARE OCT. 8-22

Most of the time, I find surfcasting a relaxing sport. Even when I go for a difficult species (blackfish, for example), I love nothing more than to cast some bait from a sandy beach on the Sound, set my rod in a spike, and admire the light playing on the water. With this kind of angling, even a child can bring in a large fish without too much concentration or effort. But fishing from



INLET BLACKFISHING

an ocean inlet cannot be done this way—not with the surf crashing over a thousand obstacles below and onto slippery rocks above. Fishing from a jetty is a specialty. And fishing for tautog from a jetty is an art.

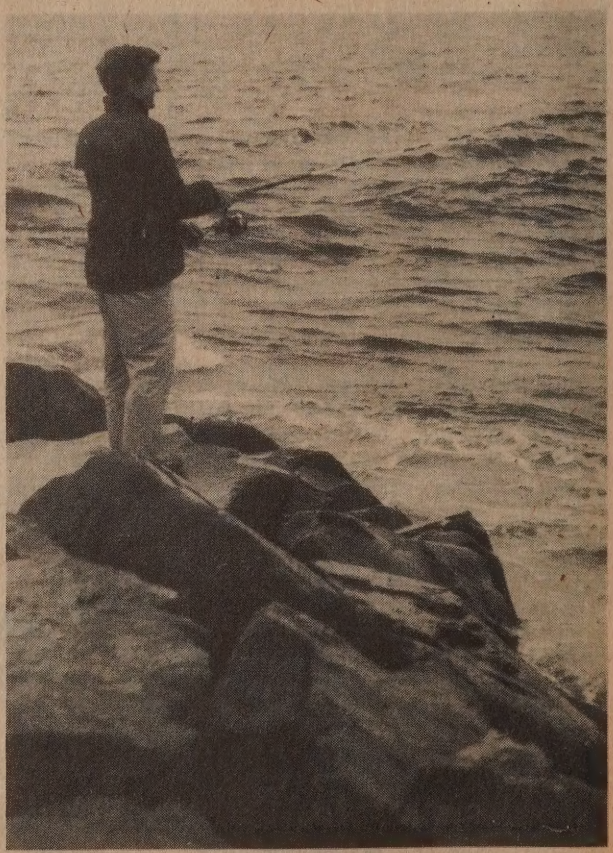
The reason is quite simple: blackfish love rocks. Not smoothly polished stones either, but ones teeming with razor-sharp barnacles and mussels, and coral-like weeds among which tiny crustaceans and other shelled creatures hide and feed. Casting into the distance from a pile of slippery rocks is one thing, but working between the rocks below is quite another. It requires a cool head and a delicate touch with heavy equipment.

A stiff spinning rod from eight to nine feet, with a strong matching reel, like the Garcia 306, is required. A conventional rod and reel of comparable size would be even better. At most inlets on the South Shore, the force of the current against the submerged rocks is so great that sinkers in the three to six ounce range are necessary. And the line should be heavy, as well. Don't be embarrassed to put on twenty pound test mono even though you may only catch two pound fish. Some days it will fray faster than forty pound test tossed into a school of rampaging bluefish. Most blackfish are taken from the end of a jetty—the ocean end.

Now that you have your rod, reel, and line, let's organize some other things that are essential to productive blackfishing from an inlet. First, you should consider buying a pair of fisherman's cleats, especially if you plan to work in close from the lower rocks. Indeed, the closer you are, the more control you have; but you will be fishing from the wettest part of the jetty. Fisherman's cleats are like ice creepers and can be slipped over a pair of old shoes or waders. The serrated metal edges bite into wet, moss-covered rocks and provide a hold-fast. They also reduce the amount of surface in contact with the thin film of saltwater over polished stone that somehow takes on the quality of an oil slick or ice on a highway. Another option is to glue some felt onto the soles of your waders or shoes with Pliobond glue. Every year I see a few jetty jockeys—especially young ones—wind up badly bruised because they failed to consider the above.

Among other essentials, bring along a wet sack, a burlap bag like the kind you find on party boats. It is much better than a bucket because a sack can be placed anywhere on the jetty without falling off. I have seen too many buckets flip over as a bulldog blackfish thrashes inside it. A wet sack will also keep your fish fresh. Next, a small bait box is very handy, one that can be slipped around your neck with a string so that you don't have to scramble up the rocks every time you need to bait up. And you should bring along a lot of bait. The fish, rocks, and weeds below, will steal it. Finally, a small tackle box is in order, containing between ten and twenty pre-tied rigs. Beginners may bring many hooks and sinkers, but after losing the first rig—usually within the first ten minutes—they spend more time tying new rigs than fishing.

A blackfish rig for jetty fishing should consist of a twelve inch leader of thirty pound test, tied to a black barrel swivel with an improved clinch knot and an end loop for a three to six ounce bank sinker. Tie a dropper loop about six inches above the sinker and put on a #6 Virginia hook on a twelve inch snelled leader of thirty pound test. When fishing for other species, one can select a variety of hooks that will do the job equally well; but for blackfishing, the Virginia is best. It is a blued hook with a strong point and shaft, and a short bite that is well matched for a tautog's mouth, as well as for gripping special baits. Some people prefer larger #4 hooks, but a #6 will hold a large fish and because it is smaller, it may not snag as frequently. Although the point tends to dull after awhile and should be touched up with a stone, I have never encountered a straightened Virginia hook. Some fishermen work with two hooks, tied in tandem or hi-lo fashion, but while these rigs may be better when fishing from a boat or over a relatively unobstructed piece of bottom, on ocean jetties you will snag too often. Others prefer to tie the sinker to a weak line, a thin piece of monofilament, reasoning that if a snag occurs, at least the hooks will be saved. But the problem is that snags occur so often at jetties that your rig will be floating to the surface every minute. Blackfishing is strictly on the bottom.



An angler casting for blues off the treacherous jetty at Shinnecock Inlet. Blackfishing is more difficult, however; the surfcaster must work in the white water near the rocks.

Blackfish like hard baits: fiddler crabs, green crabs, and hermit crabs. The latter are hard to find in Long Island unless you are in the east end of the North Fork where some bait shops carry them. But the other two work well, too. Perhaps the easiest to work with are fiddlers. Put a bunch of them in your bait box and impale one or two on your hook. Some people break off the large claw of the male and insert the hook through this socket and out the rear. I like to keep these thumbnail sized crabs wriggling as much as possible on the chance that they will be more visible. Consequently, I leave the claws intact and hook it through the rear. Either way, slide the first one up on the hook shank and then add another. The females are smaller, but size is not very important when dealing with such small baits. Color, however, may be and if you look carefully, you will note that some crabs are lighter than others. Fiddlers have a "biological clock," keyed to the tides of their origin and they change color from one tide to another, as well as from night to day. Use the lighter ones for greater visibility against the dark rocks below.

Green crabs are excellent baits, as well, but they require some work. Large ones should be quartered and small ones cut in half. It is best to prepare a batch beforehand and put them in your bait box. Turn the crab belly-side up and split it from head to tail. If it is large, cut each piece in half once again. Carefully break off all the claws and remove the top green shell. You are now left with a chunk of white meat and cartilage. Insert the hook through one of the claw sockets and out another or into the gristle, if it holds better there. Try to expose the point a little, leaving the barb inside as a wedge. Crabs are usually available in the fall, but they are frequently difficult to locate in the spring. Many bait shops do not like to carry them because not too many are sold and once they expire, the smell is awful. An excellent substitute in the spring is sand worms. Indeed, I have seen worms out-perform crabs on many occasions, but this soft bait does not hold up very well in jetty areas. Clams would be a third choice.

Now that you have everything together, make a short cast off the jetty and let the rig settle to the bottom. If it bounces around too much, use a heavier sinker. When a blackfish takes the bait, you will feel a series of rapid taps on the rod tip. Blackfish have a set of human-like anterior teeth for grasping and prying shell-food like mussels and barnacles from their hold-fasts. Give the fish a moment to work the bait to the back of its throat where a pair of pebbly-surfaced crushers will pulverize the shell. Try to strike the fish just before this happens. If you strike it too soon, the fish will release the bait; if too late, the hard crushers may interfere with hook penetration. It takes practice, but once the fish is hooked—usually signaled as a downward jolt—keep a tight line and hold the rod tip high. The fish will try to dive for the safety of the bottom where it can cut you off or snag you on the rocks. Even a small tautog has a tremendous amount of power, and it's like trying to pry a spike out of a concrete wall in the middle of a rainstorm. Once you pull it out of the water, insert your fingers in its gills. Grab it anywhere else and you may lose the fish because a tautog's hide is more slippery than the rocks on which are you standing.

Before you are likely to experience the above, however, you will probably lose some rigs until you find the right spot. Despite the frustration, remember that snagging is better for a start than casting too far from the rocks where you will catch nothing. If the rig seems thoroughly wedged after a few moderate tugs, aim the rod tip at the line's point of entry in the water and set the reel drag just below the breaking point of the line. Pull straight back and gradually tighten the drag until the rig breaks at the swivel or sinker. If none of this works, cut the line.

You can fish for tautog in the day, rain or shine, as long as the water is reasonably clear. On the South Shore, Shinnecock and Moriches Inlets are good jetties to work from May to mid-June, as well as from mid-September to mid-November. At both places, I find the beginning of the incoming tide and the beginning of the outgoing tide best. Around low tide, the fish move offshore and at high tide, the water covers so many rocks that you have to keep stepping back and casting over more obstacles. At Shinnecock, try the west jetty, roughly the last fifty feet from the upturned block at the ocean end. Some days, the inlet side is more productive whereas other times, the ocean side is better. If you have the skill, however, try casting just to the left or right of the concrete block. The largest fish are often there, but count on losing many rigs. At Moriches, forget about the ocean side of the east jetty; the surf is too strong. Concentrate near the tower on the inlet side where there are some large submerged boulders. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to work directly off the end of this jetty because of the tower. And I have a feeling that the west jetty may be better, but this requires a beach vehicle—unless you don't mind a seven-and-a-half mile hike. For those more familiar with the ocean jetties farther west, I am sure the patterns mentioned will be similar. Great care must be taken, particularly from the east side of Jones Inlet because many rocks on the jetty become submerged during the flood tide. Adjustments, however, at most places will be small. As an example, one late summer day I tried a totally new jetty in another state—a breakwall at Point Judith, Rhode Island. Here, as in Long Island, the largest and greatest number of "t'tog," as Rhode Islanders fondly refer to this species (a Narragansett Indian name), were taken from the end of the jetty.

When you get tired of "relaxing surfcasting," try an inlet for tautog this spring or fall, for the most exciting fishing of all.

Old Timers Corner: "LETTERS"

(Continued from page 12.)

Randolph Morando, Port Washington; Ann O'Brien, Harrison, New York; Raymond Pastore, Bayside; Rudolf Peknic, Bayside; Bob Pfleger, Westwood, New Jersey; Don Purkess, Bay Shore; Mike Quigley, Massapequa; Lenard Reckling, Grand Island, Nebraska who visited me last spring; William Reinertsen, Ronkonkoma; Sean Rode, Woodhaven; Alec Rosen, US Navy, Orlando, Florida; Alan Roth, East Meadow; John Russell, Rocky Point; Mike Ryan, Ronkonkoma; Michael Sarallo, Bay Shore; Scott Scarpetti, Central Islip; Alexander Schiavone, Brick Town, New Jersey; A. Schielk Jr., Brooklyn; A.T. Schiavello, Ridgewood; Mike Shalkowski, Huntington Station; Herman Shapiro, Brooklyn who sent diagram of rig for fishing Steeplechase Pier; Dolores Sollazzo, Shirley; Andrew Stralkus, Westwood, New Jersey master fisherman who sent me a flounder rig which is a killer; Lennie Stokes, Patchogue; John Thomas, Yonkers who listed several better ways to catch flounder; Ben Thornblom, Oceanside who follows the fish from coast to coast; Steven Vandenberg, Hollis Hills; Edward Velardi, Jr., Seaford; Ed Walsh, Bronx; Rev. Patrick Walsh O.P., Valhalla, New York (the codfather); Charlie Wanderer, Flushing; Kurt Weiss, Bronxville; and Jeffrey Winter, Riverdale.

So, that's it for now. Any time you care to write about old-time fishing, or for whatever reason, get in touch with me at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946. I'll be glad to hear from you and we'll kick it around a bit. Oh, yes. Don't forget the letter writing contest. A pretty nice Shakespeare spinning reel is awarded each month for the most interesting letter on old-time fishing. Stories you've heard are also eligible, so it isn't necessary for you to have fished through that period.

Mrs. Dorothy D. Civen of Center Moriches was August's winner. Mrs. Civen wrote an exciting letter telling of the twenty-two pound fluke she caught while jigging small bluefish off the Atlantic Beach Bridge... sixty-five years ago!

September's winner was Father Patrick Walsh of Valhalla, New York. Father Walsh wrote an extremely interesting letter of his early days on local party boats more than fifty years ago.

So, get those letters in, fellows. It is a pretty nice Shakespeare reel. All it takes is a few minutes of your time.

Scup or Porgies

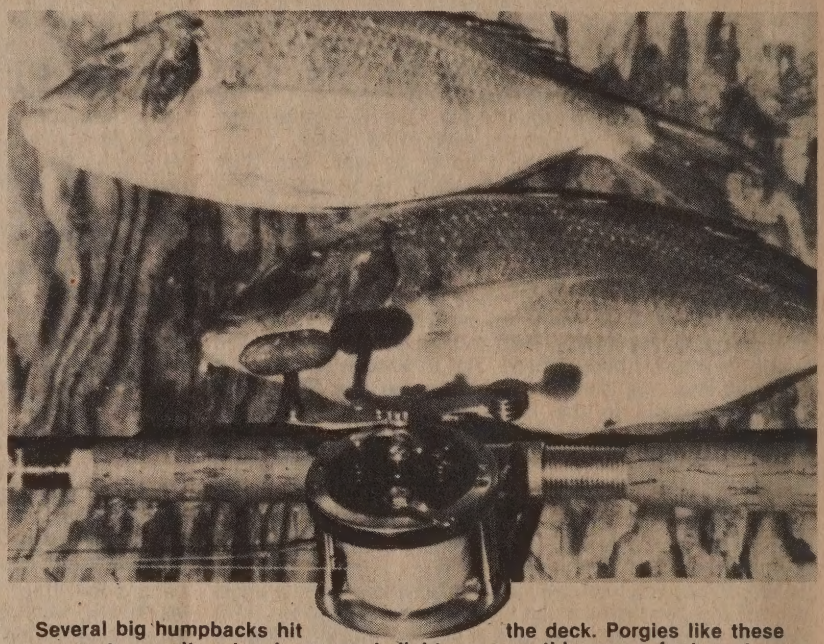
by Richard Giessuebel

One species of fish that's a lot of fun to catch and which is often very cooperative to catch is the scup—or better known as the porgy. Traveling in schools, scup invade offshore wrecks and inshore holes that are known to hold large amounts of small crustacea. Therefore, the scup can be caught by boat and land-based angler alike. True, those fish being caught along the coast are usually referred to as the sand porgy and are normally much smaller than the giant humpback porgies that are caught offshore. Whatever the case may be, this species can put up quite a tussle if caught on equipment suited to its small size and disposition. In this article, I'll get into how to catch these fine eating fish, required equipment, and the locations where you might best expect to have a good day.

First of all, let's give a general picture of this fish, so you can see the pattern he fits into. He first arrives on our coastal plain about May. He remains offshore and encircles such under water obstacles as wrecks, reefs, and mussel beds. The closer the obstacle to the beach, the smaller the school of scup. Then, as the waters slowly begin to warm, the schools make their way more inland. Eventually, the smaller schools ravage along the beach eating any form of invertebrates in their way, while the bigger fish have now moved in to occupy the closer wrecks and mussel beds.

Catching the scup is basically a simple task. Bait up a high-low rig with either clams or worms, drop the bait in on the school, and prepare to boat up to fifty fish. To help keep the fish interested, prepare a little chum and drop some overboard from time to time. In this manner, you'll assure yourself a good day's catch.

Let's look at this in a little more detail. First of all, the high-low rig is one utilizing rather small hooks. I, in fact, prefer to fish freshwater hooks intended for bass. Size #6 Eagle claw bait holder hooks meet all the requirements. Unlike most porgy hooks, which are short shanked #2s and better at catching fluke, the bait holder hooks keep your bait spread out much more nicely on the hook and offer the porgy a much more defined target. This leads to hooking the fish in his mouth region, and not in his stomach region where getting the hook out of this small creature is most times impossible. Therefore, I prefer the freshwater variety, even though the hooks rust through and deteriorate at a much faster rate than do those that have been made for only saltwater fishing.



Several big humpbacks hit the deck. Porgies like these can put up quite a tussle on such light gear as this seven foot custom-built Fenwick extra light blank.

The rig I use is made by tying two dropper loops about eighteen inches apart into twenty pound test leader material. Then, I run the loops through the eye of the hooks, drop the loops over the hooks, and then pull tight. This allows the hooks to be out about two inches off the leader material. Often, before putting the hooks onto the droppers, I'll run a red or pearl-colored bead up the dropper loop so that after the hooks are in place, the bead can be run down to the hook and keep it in place even after several fish have been caught. Now, tie a loop at the top using a double-overhand knot and another at the bottom for your sinker, and you're in business.

I fish this rig both offshore and off the beach. One thing that I do change off the beach is the size of the hooks. Here I like to use still smaller hooks or more than likely size #8s (eagle claw). Off the beach, I'll also employ a much smaller rod and reel. You don't need more than, let's say a freshwater bass outfit. A trout pole will do fine if you can cast out and hold bottom in a current with under an ounce of weight. Other than freshwater gear, use light or medium-light outfits off the surf. You don't need line of over ten pound test either. Keep the line light and you'll be able to cast further and use less weight in so doing.

Fishing inshore, I like to use a seven foot graphite pole and my Ryobi AX-123 reel packed full of eight pound test line. The outfit is kind of stiff, can handle up to two ounces of lead, and can be sensitive enough to allow you to enjoy the tussle put up by the small sand porgies. While offshore I use the same outfit, I do increase the weight of my line to at least twelve pound test. This is because I'm surely going to be using more heavier weights out here than I would be using off the surf. On occasions, the tides and conditions make me put this outfit away where I might break out my seven foot, one-piece Ugly Stik and Ryobi AX-124 reel packed full of fifteen pound test line.

As you can see, I've got to have a lot of different lines at my disposal to fish the way I do. The way I accomplish this is to always order several extra spools with each one of my reels. Then, I run some cheap thirty pound test line onto them, up to a point where I put on the line that I want. That is, if I want eight pound test on a pole, I put enough thirty pound test line on so that I'll still be able to put about 150 yards of the

more expensive eight pound test line on. Doing this on all my reels saves a lot of money in the long run, especially if you consider that I change my line often; sometimes I'll change my surf outfit's eight pound test line five or more times during the season. By using the shorter lengths, you can see that I only wind up using about one economy sized spool of line every two years.

For bait, I like to use little clam strips or pieces of blood or sand worms. If fishing out of Staten Island, I'll get my bait at J.F.'s Tackle Shop, 101 North New Dorp Plaza. John also has quite an extensive knowledge of where to fish for porgies in all the various size ranges. Therefore, we not only get bait but also a good description of what the latest fishing has been like and the action is. At J.F.'s you can also purchase all terminal gear such as hooks and weights that you'll require to have a successful day.

I cut the worms up on a board and use pieces ranging from three-quarters to an inch-and-a-half in length. If the upper hook isn't catching fish offshore, I might run a longer leader off of it. However, this usually isn't the case. I bait both hooks the same. If I'm using clams, I'll cut the foot up into pieces approximating the size of the worms. Or, I'll use the mantle cut exactly to the lengths that I'll require.

For chum, use cracked clams or mussels. Break them up into a five gallon bucket half full of water which you can slowly ladle over the side a little at a time. If the current is such that the chum won't reach the bottom, then employ a chum pot with a lot of weight in it to carry the whole cracked clams and mussels to the bottom where they'll be most effective in gathering catchable fish.

Porgies are good fighters. Once you've got them in your slick, you'll enjoy the way they seem to go in all directions at once. Some of the bigger humpbacks can actually carry you away and into the wreck that the fish call home. So, don't let them fight you on the bottom where they're caught; but rather, pull them up out of their holes where they can dive and circle but cause you very little, if any, trouble. Kids are extremely fond of catching such fish in that they can feel a fight and yet handle the fish.

Off the beach, I bait up the same way; however, I note the size of the fish being caught. Should they be large, I continue to bait the same. However, since the majority of the sand porgies caught here are hand-sized, not only do I fish a smaller hook, but I bait that hook with a smaller bait. Also, I keep my pole in hand while on the beach. Scup of this size are truly bait stealers and if your pole isn't hand-held, then you run the risk of blaming crabs for your demise, especially when you haven't seen the scups' little hits.

Places for scup fishing range all along our coast. Find a mussel bed, a wreck, or some pile of underwater rocks, and chances are from mid-May on through September, you could be into scup. The fall is always good for a run of larger fish and late September seems to be a good choice if you want to fill your refrigerators with a lot of early winter meals.

Along our coast here in the south of Long Island, porgies are caught on the Tin Can Grounds just outside of Rockaway Inlet. Bottom fishing boats from Sheepshead Bay usually work this area as well as Scallop Ridge, laying just a little more offshore. Then, the wrecks of the Ramos and Dunlap give up porgies just off of the end of Sandy Hook Channel. Further south, porgies are caught in great numbers from the Shrewsbury and Long Branch Rocks, mainly because there's a lot of mussel life in the area giving rise to a lot of invertebrate life upon which the scup feeds.

These waters are also the home of the bluefish. Therefore, be prepared to lose some rigs should these much larger predators move through. On occasions when this happens, it's always nice to have your bluefish outfit sitting right there so that you might catch a couple of these game fish should they prove to be that cooperative. However, the blue is the bottom fisherman's pest along with the ever present and bait-stealing bergall. Should the blues show up, make friends with them; they're a much better tasting pest than are the bergalls.

As for inshore, you can catch sand porgies off of most piers in the narrows both on the Brooklyn and Staten Island sides. The sandy beaches of South, Midland, New Dorp, and Gateway Park all offer porgy fishing for the mere expense of pulling up to one of these beaches and casting for a few hours.

When fishing off the piers, go light and small. There are thousands of fish waiting under the pier to cooperate with you. Also, there are a lot of fish waiting around the pier to eat the smaller fish that you're after. So, don't be surprised if you get a big tug immediately after you've had several little tugs. We often set one guy to catching sand porgies, tommy cod and eels, through the holes on the piers. Then we'll bait up with the live bait and swim him off after bigger game. This is a great and proven way to take such monsters as ten pound blues, weaks, and stripers, off of these structures. So, don't be surprised by reeling up no hook at all, especially when you're not fishing out of one of the inner, more protected holes in the piers, but instead are fishing somewhere off the side or front of the piers.

Off of the beaches, you'll catch not only sand porgies, but maybe a few lafayette, or spot, with the possibility that a striper might pick up a piece of worm intended for something else. Stripers feeding like this will be caught by you; because they are usually very small, by State law, they have to be returned to the water immediately, unharmed.

Other good places to catch scup are off the rocks at Coney Island and out of the coves and bays directly across from Sandy Hook Park. In Sandy Hook Park, there are endless bay-side beaches with nothing on them at all to keep you from fishing. In these coves, there are endless amount of porgies, lafayettes, and snapper blues to keep you busy and your pail full.

Well, that's about it. Remember to fish light. Never over-fish this little creature and you'll have a lot of fun and good eating. Also, remember to chum and to fish wherever there are mussel beds, wrecks, and reefs.

THAT FALL BLACK MAGIC

Part Two — by Andy Regina

Baiting blackfish hooks properly is a precise art. Shoddy work produces lacklustre results, or often no results at all. With soft baits such as clams or seaworms, the entire hook should be completely embedded in the bait. Steamer clams should be used shell and all. Slip the hook into the exposed neck of the clam and then thread it into the body. Bury the hook completely inside the shell, which should then be cracked slightly, to release natural juices that should attract hungry blacks to your hook. Once interested in this or any other hard-shelled bait, the blackfish will not be reluctant to engulf the entire offering shell and all, as it does in its natural state.

Crabs are a popular blackfish bait, not only for the way that blackfish eagerly accept them, but because their very hardness stands up much longer to pilfering attempts of such bait stealers as bergalls. Any and all crabs are excellent baits—blueclaws, calicos, fiddlers, and green crabs, not to mention the hermit crab, which just may be the best blackie bait of them all. Unlike other crab baits, though, the hermit crab must first be forcibly evicted from its borrowed shell before use to be effective.

The fiddler crab must first be stripped of that oversized claw that gives it that unique appearance and distinctive name. You must then insert the hook into the cavity provided by the claw removal and bring it completely through the body until the point and barb are bared. All other crabs must first be stripped of their carapace (shell), have all the legs and claws removed at the first joint, and cut into halves or quarters, depending on the size of each individual crab.

Once readied in this manner, the hook is then inserted into one of the cavities provided by the mass amputations, and then brought completely through the body, until that point and barb are exposed again, ensuring quicker penetration when it's hooking time. We cannot over-emphasize the necessity for baring hook points and barbs when using hardshelled baits. To do otherwise would be foolish, as blackfish mouths are tough enough to try to penetrate without first having to penetrate the hard shell and tough gristle of crab bodies.

Their marked preference for one particular type of bottom structure makes locating blackfish a touchy proposition. Inspection of known blackfish haunts has revealed these fish to congregate over one tiny piece of structure, often shouldering each other out of the way to do so, while the rest of that wreck or reef remains ignored, and devoid of fish. This demands critical anchoring by boatmen, for not only must you determine the exact productive portion of fishable structure over which to anchor, you must maintain your position throughout your stay there. We ensure not being swung away by wind or tide by using a bridle anchor, which is a second anchor that is usually set from the stern, thus keeping you steadily over productive territory at all times. Often a near-miss of just a few feet can spell the difference between success and failure; so we cannot stress this point too strongly.

Fall blackfish have a tendency to run big, like this eight pound beauty that took a fiddler crab for Joe Batista, of the Georgia-B.

The rough bottom structure encountered in fishing for blackfish, plus the fact that sinkers used are usually heavy, should alert you to use conventional tackle here. Add to this the necessity of socking hooks home into tough mouths, and the urgency to keep black bulldogs from regaining the sanctuary of the reef or wreck, where they can wedge you solidly into some barnacle-encrusted crevice, and you can further see the disadvantage of using spinning tackle, which is too soft and forgiving for this rough fishing.

A fairly stiff boat rod will handle hooking and hauling easily, and a conventional reel will allow you to fish with the line held between thumb and forefinger, which will better alert you to the slightest blackfish bite, which can be almost imperceptible at times. Preliminary blackfish bites start out as slight pecks, and should be ignored by the angler, who must wait for that solid tug that denotes that the bait has been passed back to the black's pharyngeal teeth. Now is the time to set that hook with a sharp upward thrust of the rod, and to get that fish

away from the bottom in a hurry. Make certain beforehand that the reel drag has been set almost to the breaking point of the line, to give you every advantage against this surly struggler.

And always net blackfish; too often a last-minute lunge will set the blackfish free, as he takes advantage of his weight not being displaced by water any longer, and places the full strain on your tackle. If you only lose some line or rigging, be thankful, for should your drag be too tight, you could end up with a broken rod.

An outdoor writer wouldn't be worth a damn if he couldn't provide his readers with some tips that might prove useful, and possibly add a fish or two to your stringer, so here goes:

Keep rods hand-held at all times, and keep lines taut. Taut lines prevent movement of terminal tackle, which could scare off wary blackfish, and allow for a more acute sense of feel, especially when the line is held between your thumb and forefinger, as stated before, and you will not see your rod suddenly yanked overboard should a big black hit while it is in a holder.

Maintain quiet as much as possible; throttle-down and glide into your approach; anchor as noiselessly as possible; keep inboard noise to a minimum, especially in shallow water where sound penetrates easily.

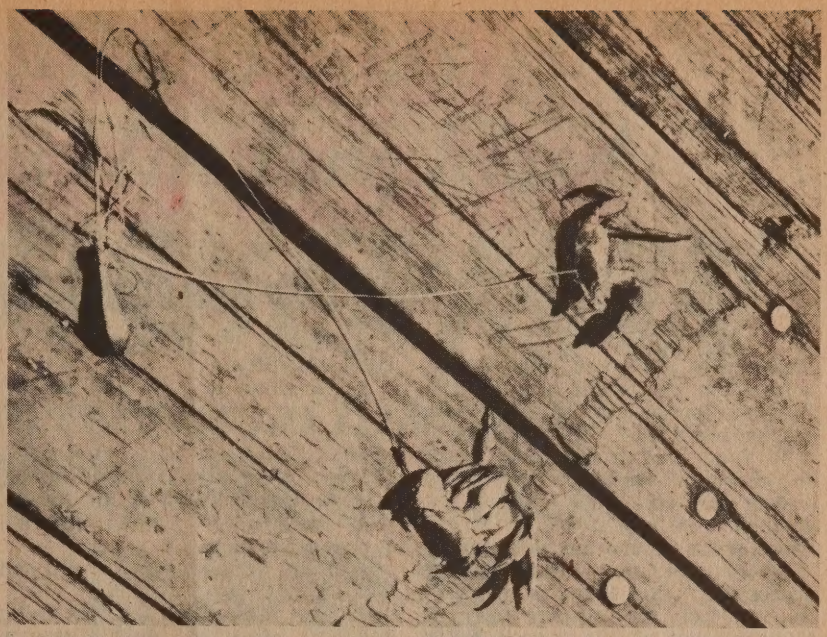
Use only new hooks. The false economy of using old or rusted hooks will only result in smaller catches. Rusted hooks do not penetrate easily, causing undue frustration as you miss fish and lose bait at the same time. Besides becoming weakened by losing metal to oxidation, rusted hooks add to the threat of tetanus, should you accidentally stick yourself. All things considered, it's just not worth the trouble. Throw away your hooks after each trip, and start out fresh next time. The advantages are all in your favor, and the cost is minimal.

Keeping bait on the hook is difficult; not only do thieves like the bergall strip you bare, but the wily blackfish is capable of doing so also. Experienced tautog fishermen run the removed big claw of fiddler crabs up the hook shank before they bury the hook in the fiddler. Now, when that blackfish steals that crab, he can usually be caught when he returns to finish the job—that claw up on the hook shank. (See "Fall's Fighting Fools, LIF, 9/21/78.)

Wreck fishermen have borrowed a trick from codfishermen: a piece of conch, properly pounded flat and cut into strips, will withstand the most persistent thief, and is a natural part of blackfish diets. Here we advise hooking the conch once or twice, before burying the hook into some softer bait, such as clams.

Shore fishermen should appraise possible areas at low tide. This will point out rocks or wrecks within casting range that can be fished on incoming tides. Here you should look for barnacle growth; the lack of barnacles may not interest blackfish, although the area might seem productive at first glance. This axiom applies to selecting productive bridge abutments and pier pilings also, both of which are good blackfish structures. If you see barnacles—fish it.

And beach rats would do well to add a long-leadered hook about eighteen inches above their terminal tackle. Baited with a fat, juicy sandworm and dangling just above the bottom because of the angle formed by the line from rod tip to sinker, you might be happily surprised when some old white-chin decides to inhale this most favored bait of all, amazing you with that Fall black magic.



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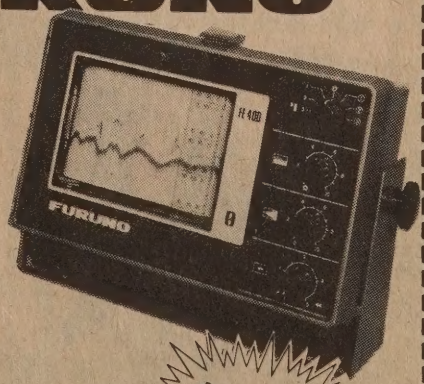

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Tips From STAN GIBBS

by Tap Goodenough

About forty years ago, Stan Gibbs, who lives in Sagamore in the Buzzards Bay area of Cape Cod, was not satisfied with fishing plugs of that time. An ardent saltwater angler and surf caster, he decided to create his own lure, which he achieved with a jackknife, fingernail polish and a shoe string for security.

"That first plug proved to be successful," said Stan. So successful, in fact, for striped bass or bluefish, that all his friends asked for plugs and he did more whittling. Finally, in desperation he acquired some power tools, his wife became his co-worker, and his sons aided in the enterprise.

The result was amazing. Soon, the majority of surf casters were using Gibbs Cast-A-Lure plugs. I still have one of the first batch, using it to this day after sharpening the hooks now and then. Of course, other brands of plugs came along, but Gibbs' lures still remain popular, especially on Cape Cod.

Stan retired a few years ago, and his son, John, is running the business with much finesse. For all surf casters, Stan has many helpful tips; and here are his Ten Fishing Commandments:

1. Reel slowly; give the rod tip a couple of short jerks about every eight to ten feet.

2. Continue to reel slowly; mix short jerks and stronger ones for more erratic action.

3. Reel and jerk your rod. Let the lure drift back a little and proceed.

4. Reel slowly, then a little faster. The combination gives a different action to the lure.

5. Take in line while you pop and jerk the rod.

6. Stop the reeling while working the rod; reel for a short distance; work the rod a few times, then reel again.

7. In fast water, let the current do some of the work.

8. Where there isn't any current, reel a little faster.

9. Watch other successful anglers for methods of working lures. Don't be afraid to ask; good sportsmen and ladies are always helpful.

10. Swimming plugs will do practically all of the work, yet even better results are created by varied reeling and reel action.

For many years, it became traditional for Stan Gibbs to catch the season's first striped bass off Popponesset Beach in Mashpee, using one of his lures, of course.

In further advice, Stan said, "One of the most important things to determine, if possible, is what natural baitfish are present. The fish you are after may be there in search of a particular morsel. From the bait, you can decide what lure to use, what speed and what action is best as an imitation to attract the fish.

"Try other ways to fish a lure: what you put into it will decide what you get out of it. When you find a certain method which attracts the fish, stay with it as long as it gives results, but don't depend on the same action or plug to bring the same results everyday. Experiment!

"Normally, a much slower retrieve is desirable for night fishing. For daylight hours, the fish usually prefer more action. This can be accomplished by reeling slowly and adding more action to the rod tip. With practice, you will feel these things.

"If you are casting into fast water, reel slowly across the current, so that the current will work the plug. In slow water, reel fairly fast, getting speed enough to keep it underwater.

"You can add a bucktail. Some action will be lost this way, but the bucktail attraction for the fish may be worth the loss. A wraparound bucktail may be applied quickly to any tail hook.

"Try a dropper 18" to 24" ahead of the lure. It gives an impression of fish chasing small bait.

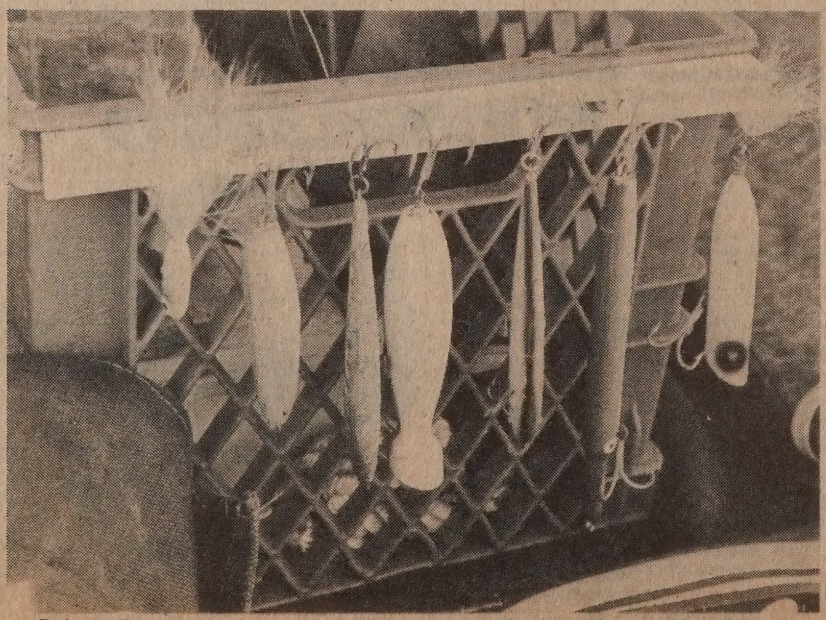
"When using surface lures, it is better generally not to create too great a splash while reeling. There are times when a few frantic popping actions will attract the fish at the beginning of a retrieve. With a pencil popper, sometimes slow, continuous up-and-down motion during the slow retrieve will produce a snake-like action, which is every effective.

"For faster striking fish, a livelier action and speedier retrieve will get better results. Try this method on bluefish, bonito, and others of this speedy classification."

Finally, Stan reminded all anglers to SHARPEN their hooks, even though they appear to be sharp. This is needed when a point hits a tough part of the fish, such as the jawbone.

The expert emphasized that all anglers should experiment often.

Because of Gibbs' advice and experience, I have taken more striped bass through the years.



Polaris Popper at center was creation of veteran surfman, Stan Gibbs. His lure tips work with all lures.

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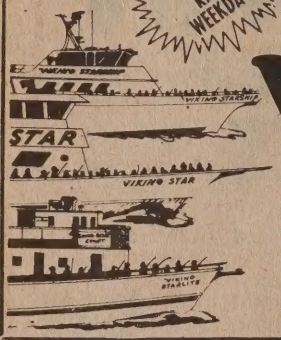

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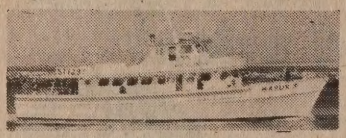

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Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** reported very good porgy action at the Point and at Gardiner's Island. On Sunday 30 fares averaged 70 to 80 fish per man. High hook had over 150. Fish are medium to large, with the bigger fish going to 2 lbs. Bluefishing at Cartwright continues real good night and day with most fares leaving with 10 to 20 fish in the 12 to 20 lb. range.

The **Viking Fleet** reported that bluefishing has been excellent with fish up to 20 lbs. being taken on whole herring at Cartwright. Fares have been averaging 15 of the big choppers apiece. A few good sized fluke still being taken at the Point also.

Jim Olphant of Queens Village called to tell us that he fished aboard Capt Bud Dorman's **Viking Skipper II** on Friday and bagged up with 201 porgies, mixed fish up to humpbacks. Four other men had 100 fish or better. The boat fished off the Lighthouse.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports that a charter this week for Lourides Industries of Hauppauge had a good day with over 80 blues and a lot of weaks. They then tried for some bass but none were caught. Tuna in the 40 to 80 lb. class are still being caught, weather permitting. Phil says that most of the boats have stopped offshore fishing for the season.

Westlake Fishing Lodge called to say that the **Barracuda** has been getting lots of mako and has been tagging big blue shark. The bluefishing is great with small blues inside the Point and big blues outside. The boat Tender foot bagged a 239

Members of N.Y.C.F.D. Engine Company #61 had a field day with the tuna S.E. of Block Island. The group put away ten fish from 35 to 105 lbs. aboard the charterboat "King Wayne."

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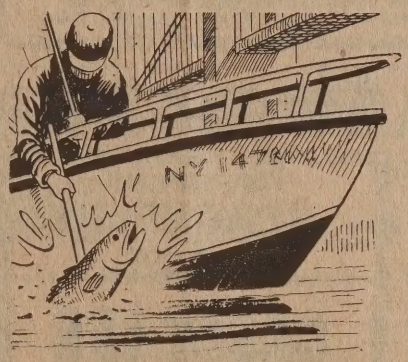

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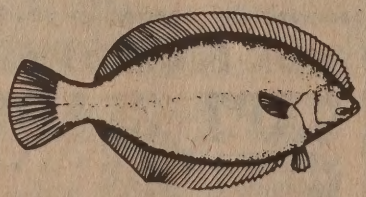

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thresher shark. The boat Tessa hd 39 bluefish. Porgies and striped bass are both being caught in good quantities.

Capt Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** called to say that Sunday's trip for John Duas and family loaded up on blues at Cartwright on herring.

Capt Jack Passie of the charter boat **Windy** sailed a party Saturday night for bass and covered the decks with 13 good stripers from 14 to 32 lbs. These fish were trolled on big Danny plugs in the Great Eastern area. Other trips during the week have been for monster blues at Cartwright where the action is unbelieveable.

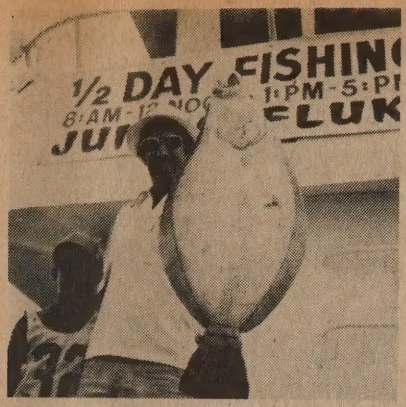
A party headed by Ernie Sculty enjoyed some wild tuna action south of Block Island aboard the charter boat "Adios." Total catch came to 20 bluefins in the 40-100 lb. class.

It was tuna for Capt Gene Kelly of the **Hustler III**, working south of Block Island. His party diamond jigged 8 tuna up to 85 lbs. They used standard bluefish rods. During the week charters did very well near the sub buoy on bluefish.

The charter boat **Julie III** with Capt Ron and party lead by Socrates Sazelidis caught 54 blues at Cartwright from 10 to 16 lbs. and they had had enough by 10 a.m. to call it a day.

Capt Zack of the **Mako Express** called to say that he got offshore Sunday when the wind died. He saw plenty of blue shark and they had one high jumping 45 lb. mako for Jim Lorvino. This was the 3rd jumping male this season.

Capt Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** called to report that Thursday's charter for Larry Hull of Huntington along with 2 pals decked 24 tuna up to 81 lbs. These were bluefins. They also had 3 albacore and 18 bluefish. All these fish were either trolled or diamond jigged or baited with herring or butterfish. Sunday's trip for Tony Newmann and two pals from Rockaway bagged 2 tuna up to 50 lbs. plus 56 bluefish. Other trips during the week have been to Cartwright for superb bluefishing.



This 14½ lb. doormat fluke was brought to net by Ken Ehrenkranz of N.J. on the Montauk open boat "Viking Star."

Capt Frank of the charter boat **Free Spirit** called to say that the inshore fishing continues to be good. Sunday's charter was boating big blues at Cartwright until they were arm weary. Frank still has several weekend dates available for inshore trips. See ad for details.

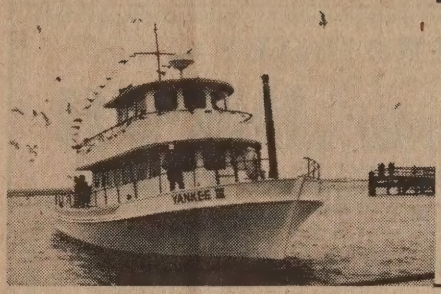
SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

Bruce told me from **Speck's Bait and Tackle Shop** that porgy action continued very good throughout Peconic Bay, although larger fish are being taken at Cedar Point. Clams and clam chum resulting in some of the better scores. Casters along the banks of the Shinnecock Canal have been scoring well with small flounder on worms. Blackfish just getting started in the area and big blues have been showing in the inlet and near the Ponqogue Bridge in recent days.

The **Capt Clark II** reports very good blackfishing the early part of the week with many fish being in the 4 to 6 lb. class. Blacks in the 8 to 9 lb. class are taking the pools each day. Fishing slowed down Friday and Saturday due to high winds and moon tide. Sunday saw good action with blackfish along with good catches of porgies running from ¾ to 1 lb. The skipper feels that with water temp dropping, October and November will produce some prime blackfishing. Green crabs are available on the boat. Capt Clark will be making an offshore trip for sea bass on October 4th, weather permitting.

★ CAPTREE ★



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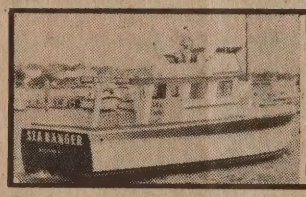

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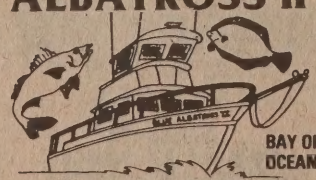
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This fine catch of 75 sea bass, 6 porgies and a 3½ lb. fluke was made by Stan Bigora at buoy 42 on bloodworm and clam bait. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reported a lot of flounder on worms at buoy 42 and in the east cut of the inlet. Sea bass also at the latter location and taking both worms and squid. Good crabbing in the bay and some big snappers still around. Boatmen trolling small blues around the inlet and along the beaches with bigger fish southwest of the inlet in 70' of water.

Al at **Hiway Fishing Station** told us that Charlie Lonski and his wife returned with 85 nice flounder on Sunday. They fished the buoy 54 area. Good flounder action also at buoy 44 with sea bass mixed with the flatties. Lots of little blowfish in the bay and still some snapper blues around. Best bet for the flounder are worms, clams and clam or mussel chum.

L&M Marine reports that Jose Ares bagged 30 flounders from 1 to 2 lbs. and one bushel of blueclaw crabs working from buoy 52 to 50. John and Coleen Rodgers also had a good number of flounders and crabs. Joe and Mike Paziaga had 41 flounder at buoy 44. Flounders are picking up steadily with a lot of sea bass and porgies at buoy 44, along with there being tons of crabs. Jim Green had 2 bushels of blueclaws crabbing just north of buoy 42.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** says that Saturday things took a down-turn due to the high northwest winds. However, Sunday things bounced back again. Dave Roys boated 30 flounder, 18 sea bass and 22 porgies fishing buoy 44 on bloods and dyed clam. Don and Mark Link accounted for 73 more flounder, same bait same area. Incoming water has been best. Porgies and sea bass have been mixed in. Flounders are hitting on both tides. Chumming while not 100 percent necessary, nontheless a big help. Blueclaw crabs were a good item on the weekend, especially Sunday, to the tune of 3 to 4 dozen per boat that was trying for them. Best action was between buoys 43 and 44.

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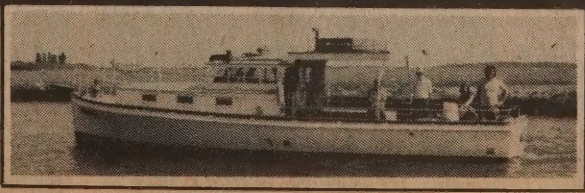

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Vince Bodame took these seven brown trout ranging from 1¼ to 3¼ lbs. in Crab Meadow Creek on live grass shrimp and ultra-light spinning tackle. Subscriber photo.

A fair body of blowfish is in the bay as 3 to 4 good sized keepers are being taken on each boat along with an occasional weakfish.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

WEST SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **South Bay Fishing Station** said there are still some weaks along with some blackfish being taken right out in front of the station. Squid strips and flounder fillets working best on the weaks. Good porgy and blackfish action on worms and clams at buoy 20. Snappers still good, a few blowfish around and flounder just getting started.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sports** reported porgies, sea bass and blacks being taken at the Kismet Reef and on bay wrecks. Still some small weaks in the 3 lb. class at buoy 4 on squid or sand worms. A few bass at the inlet on live eels and for freshwater fans some 14" to 18" trout were taken out of Bubbles Falls and Rattlesnake Creek this past week.

BAY SHORE

From **Smokey's Bait and Tackle**, Linda said that the buoy 13 area has been producing mixed bags of sea bass, porgies, fluke and small weaks. Some good action also at the WR buoy as demonstrated by Ralph Pugligse, Jerry Castagna and Jim Smiley who used squid and spearing to take 60 sea bass, 40 blowfish, 6 fluke, a pail of porgies and some small bluefish in the area. Linda added that some blues are still at the inlet for umbrella rig trollers and bass are being taken at the inlet on live eels. Flounder just getting started.

Capt Neil of the **Casey Lee** tells of excellent blackfishing Friday, Saturday and Sunday on bay wrecks. Fish have been running 1 to 3 lbs. Pool fish suckers for fiddler crab, have been running 4 to 6 lbs. The Free Fishing For Live Contest is over with the winner being Gene Kelly of Hauppauge with a 7 lb. 12 oz. fluke which he caught on August 28th. Gene can now fish on the boat once a week, free, for life.

CAPTREE

Captain Carl Bauer of the **Captain Whitaker** reported good blackfishing during the week, although the weekend action slowed somewhat.

Seven-year-old Cathy Kennedy had her hands full when she tangled with this 16 lb. chopper aboard the 'Capt. Bob Joseph.'

Anglers still did well with 200 blackfish and 250 sea bass taken on Saturday and about 500 blackfish taken on Sunday. Catches range anywhere from 10 to 30 fish per man. Action has been improving with the cooler weather.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** said that fares averaged about five fish per man over the weekend. Sizes ranged anywhere from 5 to 14 lbs. with jigs accounting for most of the fish. The skipper is still fishing the Patchogue Grounds.

The open boat **Captain Leitch** reported they have been picking away at the flounder in the State Channel. Anglers have been taking a mixed bag of sea bass, blowfish and kingfish, along with the flatties. The skipper feels that the flounder action should improve shortly as water temperatures continue to drop.

The **Captree Queen II** reports that unsettled weather all week resulted in unsettled fishing all week. Generally small crowds boated 40 to 100 bluefish a trip during the day. Along with the blues were some bonito and a few albacore. The night trips were about the same except for Sunday night which was the best night so far in September. Eleven passengers decked over 300 blues from 3 to 8 lbs. Although the fishing was largely erratic, half the time catches were slow to fair and the balance of the time saw generally good fishing. Larger fish in the 12 to 15 lb. class are now showing up around wrecks. Typical fall fishing is had whenever the smaller school size 3 to 8 pounders are located.

Charter boat **Eleanor** tells of good sea bass fishing Saturday for John Sallon and group from 3M Company. They got a big catch of sea bass, blowfish, flounder and porgies. The blows are making a come back. The bottom is paved with baby blowfish

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which have to be thrown back but take heart...will catch them next season. The sea bass have been feeding on tiny green crabs. Best action has been from the wreck buoy to the Lighthouse drifting on the flood with clam and squid.

Saturday aboard Capt John Bilitski's **Sea Ranger**, was hoisted up a 4 lb. 15 oz. sea bass which was weighed in at the Captree Bait Station. This is the largest sea bass taken at Captree this year. This is the largest sea bass taken anywhere on the south shore so far this year as far as your reporter is aware.

Capt George Tweedy of the **Capt Scotty** tells of a few blues being taken on all trips out. The boat is working a little to the east and is generally getting 6 to 14 blues a man in the 12 to 18 lb. range, fishing over wrecks. On Sunday they had a few fish on wrecks and also on open bottom. If you fish hard, 10 to 15 blues is no problem. It's jig fishing during the day. Friday she blew hard from the northwest. George says more blues are coming in and these should be full-grown, tear the rod out of you hands, type fish.

BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported that the private boat Fever II fished the Kismet Reef over the weekend and put away 45 blackfish up to 3 lbs. Good action at buoys 12 and 13 with porgies and sea bass, as well as a few blacks and blowfish. Returning from an offshore trip on Sunday, Ralph reported all the blues and weaks you wanted from the inlet to Cedar Beach late Sunday afternoon. Fish were trolled and jigged here. Quite a few bass coming out of the Fire Island Inlet area. Ralph weighed fish up to 41 lbs. this week, including a 34¾ lber. for Pete

Al Guskind displays the 13.3 lb. weak he boated on a live bunker at Staten Island. Photo courtesy of J. F. Tackle Shop.

Mercier. Eels, blackfish and bunker are taking the bass. Plenty of life still out at the Canyon. The Irish faker returned from a Canyon trip over the weekend with two yellowfins over 100 lbs. plus a bunch of longfin albacore. Another boat fishing in the same area as the Irish Faker reportedly dropped a big blue marlin at the boat.

Capt Ron of the charter boat **Sea Bird** called to say that his charters this past week have enjoyed great mixed fall catches of porgies, sea bass, blacks, flounders and blowfish in various spots in the bay.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

MASSAPEQUA

George Buzzetta, accountant of world reknown, umbrellaed 10 stripers Friday night and 5 Saturday night working Lido Beach. Fish ranged from 5 to 15 lbs. George says the fish are feeding on spearing. He fished on Friday night with Walter Durschalter and Saturday night with Claudio Guzzano and Seaford Joe.

SEAFORD

Capt Brian of the **Chinko** called to say that he sailed a charter on Saturday for Hertz Rent-A-Car. They had 18 to 25 flounders a man, fish running from 1¼ to 1¾ lbs. with blowfish, sea bass and porgies mixed in. They fished local creeks and bridges. Brian asked us to remind you that the boat will start sailing open boat as of October 4th.

Lon Wanser told us from **Wanser's Tackle Shop** that anglers have been taking a good mixed bag of inshore species. Young Seth Manoach of Seaford bicycled to the 2nd Wantagh bridge and filled a bucket with snappers, blackfish, fluke, sea bass, porgies and jacks. Weakfish still being taken at the bridges as demonstrated by Steve and Ann Weiss who took 6 weaks up to 8½ lbs. on sand worms at the 3rd Bridge Saturday night.

Sal at **Custom Tackle** tells us that bassfishing is picking up with reports of big bass up to 40 lbs. being taken at the Coast Guard Station at Short Beach on 3 oz. bucktails. Blackfishing is on an upward swing at the Meadowbrook Bridge. Weaks are also being taken on occasion. At Hecksher State Park, in the 4 to 6 lb. range on squid. Still alot of snapper in the bay. Large schools of bunker are around all the bridges.

Capt Eddie's Fishing Station reports blackfish to 3 lbs. at the Wantagh

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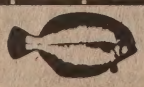
BAIT  BOATS
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BELLMORE

The singing dog at **Merrick Tackle** says the flounders are improving daily with the creeks producing best, such as Swift Creek and Haunts Creek. Blood worms and mussel chum are the best bet. A mixed bag at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh Bridges, as well as many, holes in the bay consisting of flounder, porgies, sea bass, blowfish, blackfish, all of a small variety, may be had. Worms, clam and squid should do the job.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports that they are starting to see kingfish being brought in. Good mixed catches of flounder and sea bass along with an occasional keeper fluke, is being made from Merrick Point to the Golf Course. There are also a large number of midget fluke in the area which must be returned to the water unharmed. Snappers are still all over the place in the 10 to 12" variety. The Meadowbrook Bridge and the Wantagh Bridge and holding sea bass, a few porgies, a few blacks and a few decent size blowfish. Small blues from 1 to 3 lbs. ranging from the Inlet to the Pink Hotel, on trolled umbrellas. Late afternoon fishing has been best here. Diamond jigs are very effective in the morning hours. A 15 lb. striper was taken by Frankie the Fig AKA Frankie the Flea.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports flounder, porgies and sea bass from buoy 17 to 19 in Reynolds Channel. Small blues in the Inlet through the Pink Hotel. A few weaks at the Meadowbrook Bridge on sand worms and snappers. These are 10 to 12 pounders. Nights have been best all around the high.

What may well be the biggest trout to come from L. I. waters in recent times is this 13 lb. 9 oz. brown trout. Louis Aprile took this catch of a lifetime on a 2 lb. tippet and home-tied streamer in the Nissequogue River.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

The **Capt Bill** running two half-day trips daily, reports that his fares have been catching plenty of blackfish in the 2 to 3 lb. range, porgies, flounders and sea bass. These are all decent size fish for in the bay. The flounders were taken at Sea Dog Creek and the balance of the catch at an inshore wreck. Some of the flounders have gone to 2 lbs.

Pete Kessinger of the **Starstream II** tells of an excellent Sunday on the bluefish with lots of big blues up to 16 lbs. on both jigs and on bait. Fishing was done just 1½ hours from the dock. They also had a 7 lb. cod which was brought up bitten in half. The action is SE of Cholera. The rest of the week was fair to good on bluefish working the Cholera banks.

Capt Sy of the **Blue Fin Fleet** has been bluefishing during the week with the **BF II and III** fishing south and SW. Capt Charlie Adams on Friday worked Cholera for a good catch of blues on bait, fish from 4 to 10 lbs. with bonito and albacore mixed in. On Saturday **BF III** fishing local wrecks, enjoyed excellent sea bass, porgy and blackfish action. They also had catches of blows, fluke, flounder and macks. Porgies went up to 3 lbs. and sea bass went up to 4 lbs. One fare had 43 fish. On Sunday the **BF II AND III** both went to the channels and enjoyed good fluking with fish up to 4 lbs. on smelts. They also had 6 weaks up to 8 lbs.

The **Capt Al** tells us that he had a very good Friday and Saturday.

The "crew" from the Inwood Fire Dept. display a 91 lb. bluefin tuna taken aboard Captain Dan Pollera's "Nan-Sea."

Sunday was picky due to the strong tides early in the day, but action picked up later in the day and they ended up with a decent catch. Saturday was slaughter fishing, bags and bags of fish for 17 fares. This was on bait at Cholera. Fish ran 4 to 6 lbs. with a couple of 12 to 16 lb. bruisers mixed in. Friday passengers had a load of bonito and albacore also. Al says there is definitely lots of very good fishing left this season. As an after-thought, the skipper said that Monday was a slaughter also and fish were flying.

The **Capt Gary** reports that on Sunday he ran open boat with good flounder catches. Pool winner was Sharon Barkowsky with a 2½ lb. flounder. Herb Vial was high hook with 28 flounder. Maryann Canbareri had 18 flounders. Capt Gary says that he has some choice charter weekends open in October.

The **Capt Lou II** reports excellent bottom fishing all week. High hook on the full day boat has been ranging in the 50 and 60s everyday. Thursday on the half-day boat, **Capt Lou IV**, Sam Goldstein of Oceanside, hit 35 fish. Saturday Howard A. Daderian of Forest Hills, had 40 flounder, sea bass and porgies on the half-day boat. Plenty of action with porgies and sea bass. A striper and a big weakfish are also hooked and landed on the weekend.

From **Anthony's Fishing Station**, Greta reported a good weekend with the flounder. A couple of boats returned with catches of 35 and 40 fish. They fished near the Coast Guard station and in Merrick Bay with worms, clams and clam chum. Blackfishing very good on fiddler crabs at the Meadowbrook bridge and fluke appear to be about finished in the area.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reported that although a few fluke are still being taken at the inlet the action seems to be petering out. Best fishing in the area is with sea bass and porgies all along Reynolds Channel on worms and squid. Flounder getting started, with the best early action in Swift Creek and excellent blackfish action on fiddlers at the Meadowbrook Bridge.

Charter boat **Marie III** called to say that Saturday's trip for Bill Melchiorre fished the bay i Swift Creek, Long Creek and Fundy for flounders to 1½ lbs. Also local bridges were worked for blacks to 5 lbs. on the slack. A few sea bass, a mess of porgies and a few blowfish were also caught. Average blacks are running 1½ to 3 lbs. The pool was taken by Don Dunn with a 9 lb. weak taken on a clam on a flounder hook. Sunday's charter for the Double T Fishing Club found picky bluefishing at Cholera. With improved weather, catches should get better. These were 2 to 5 lb. fish taken on bait.

Here is a nice batch of big blues trolled at Seabright on S&G umbrella rigs by Toni and Howie Greenfield and Joan and Ralph Hochberg. The two couples fished aboard Captain Ronnie Lepper's charter boat "Kim."

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** reported a couple of bass trolled on bunker spoons along the beach from Jones Beach to Atlantic Beach. Blackfishing very good at all the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs. Few decent sized fluke still to be caught at the inlet on squid and sand eel combos and the flounder action is just getting under way. Charlie has a good supply of mussels on hand for flatfish fans to use as bait or chum.

LONG BEACH

Bernie Haag of **Long Beach Sports Marina** said blackfishing has been fantastic with hotspots at the Gong buoy, Silver Point jetty, Atlantic Beach Bridge and the Atlantic Beach jetties. James Lansford and William Anderson caught 62 blacks at the Atlantic Beach Bridge, while Pete McCormick took 15 tautogs from the jetty at the foot of Vernon Avenue. John Stein of Oceanside used bucktails to take 4 bass from 8 to 11 lbs. along Atlantic Beach Sunday AM. Good action with flounder although most of the flatties are still small. John Cusak and his wife Jan returned to the marina on Sunday with 15 keeper flounder up to 1¼ lbs. Blues being taken at Ambrose, the Tin Can Grounds and the Atlantic Beach Bridge. In the Marina fishing contest, the bluefish division was being led by Roger Porcella with a 13 lber., while Jim Gentilesco and Art Ferdschneider hold down 2nd and 3rd place with 11 and 10½ lb. fish. Charles Porcella and John Cusak tied for 1st in the flounder contest with flatties of 1 lb. 4 oz.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Skippy from **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** reported excellent blackfishing at Atlantic Beach on fiddler crabs. Flounder just getting started in the area and some fluke still being taken at Ambrose. Snapper blues in the

POINT LOOKOUT

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back bay and big blues in solid at Cholera. Richie Zobkiw and friends aboard the Helen Vital II put away 65 blues in the 8-14 lb. range on bait and chum. They also had a 20 lber. in their catch.

Capt Ron Lepper of the **Kim** says that there are super excellent catches of blues, bonito, albacore and weakfish to the tune of over 100 every trip for his charters. Ron says to remind you that if you are going to tuna fish at the Mud Hole, remember that licenses are necessary for the boat and that the FEDS are giving out big fines, so beware.

JAMAICA BAY

From **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** Artie said that while porgy and snapper action appears to be slowing down, blackfishing is now very good and flounder are improving. The Marine Parkway Bridge and the North and South Channel bridges are producing tautogs up to 2 lbs. on fiddler crabs, while worms are working best for the flounder.

Richie at **Seaman's Bait** tells of lots of porgies in the bay, hand size, and behind TSS. This is on worm and clam. Good catches of blues and weaks on live bunker at the radar pier and the Crossbay Bridge. Blues are in the 10 lb. class and weaks are in the 8 lbs. class, both days and nights. A couple of bass in the 4 to 5 lb. class were taken at the Crossbay Bridge, on sand worms drifted into mid-depths at the Marine Parkway Bridge.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The open boat **Flamingo III** told us of lots of blues in the 5-6 lb. class, along with some 5-8 lb. weakfish mixed in at the Tin Can Grounds and also down off Sandy Hook. Fish are being taken on bait and jigs and both bonito and albacore are mixed in with the choppers. Still some decent fluking in the New York Bight area. Most of the fish are nice sized and being taken on combination baits.

The open boat **Elsie K** enjoyed very good fluking on Sunday fishing the Ambrose Channels. Action was good all week with catches of as high as 20 fish being made by some anglers. Most of the fluke are running 2-4 lbs. and anglers are averaging 10 to 15 of

EDITORIAL: Crisis in the Wings

(Continued from page 5.)

the door open for the destruction of inshore species balance including the prey/predator relationships that are primarily responsible for the appearance of many species on the inshore grounds.

Isn't it odd how things happen? In Delaware, where saltwater sport fishing is a very minor industry and commercial fishing is a major activity, there has been no government or private support for the proliferation of sport fishing. However, in New York where there has been a long tradition of tourism and sport fishing, there has been tremendous pressure for commercial fishing proliferation. In New York State in 1979, sport fishing contributed about $403,200,000 to the economy, while commercial fishing contributed **only** $10,250,000. Doesn't it seem odd then that there has been this concerted effort to support commercial activity in New York State while undermining the large and economically important sport fishing and tourist industry? How long will tourism flourish at Montauk with five packing houses dumping foul smelling effluents into what is, at present, clean and clear water? (Details on above data available upon request.)

Although for years it was thought that commercial fishermen and sport fishing could peacefully coexist, the recent increased demand for fishable areas and fish stocks by both interests has increased so much that this can no longer be a reality. The competition for the resource and the space seems to be most profound on the inshore grounds and that is where we must pinpoint our attention. Uncontrolled competition in an area that is already over-populated can only lead to the effective elimination of a number of finfish species and the destruction of otherwise productive habitats. Thus we proposed the following:

1. The re-examination of the conservation law to reflect the immense economic importance of recreational fishing.
2. The development of formal management plans for **all** inshore species.
3. The implementation of legislation that would require a $500 annual fee to sell fish in New York State.
4. The registration of all legitimate recreational fishermen in order to promote effective legislative lobbying.

William C. Wyckle

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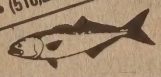

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the fish apiece. The skipper figures the action should last for about another two weeks. Sand eels continue to provide the best action.

These two nice fluke being held by Young Eng Lian were the result of a recent trip out of Sheepshead Bay aboard the open boat "Dorothy B."

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** said that weakfish and bluefish action continued in the Princess Bay channel. Single tubes and Lupo Baby Bunker spoons still taking fish in the 8-12 lb. class. Bunker baits also working in this area. Snappers and porgies providing good action in the area and blackfish beginning to take hold as water temperatures drop. Not too many anglers concentrating on the tautogs yets.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** reports that his fares did very well over the weekend on porgies at Plum Island, Fishers Island and in LI Sound.

The **Peconic Star** also had solid catches of porgies on the weekend fishing Plum and Fishers Island and various pieces in the Sound.

AP White Bait Shop reports very good porgy fishing at Plum Island, Orient Point and Petty's Bight. Good flounder action on the bay side at Orient Point and Petty's Bight. Blackfishing picking up at Orient Point, Plum Gut, north side of Plum and Gull Islands and in the sound off Orient. Charles Bella of Floral Park fishing with a buddy caught 9 striped bass in Plum Gut on Sunday, largest going to 44 lbs.

Charter boat **Blue Albatross** reports that Sunday's charter for the Weather Bee Fishing Club got solid catches of blues and blackfish. Saturday's charter had good catches of sand porgies. This was a charter for Ken Ladson and group that caught fish despite the winds. Carol Esposito was the pool winner on Sunday's trip.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** tells us that there is still good porgy action at Orient and Petty's Bight. Big flounder to 2 lbs. at Petty's Bight along with some accidental fluke. This is on worms, clam and squid. Blackfish being caught at the Lighthouse on green crab and fiddlers up to 6 lbs. BUCKETS of flounder, porgies and blacks are being caught now. On the bay side, Orient State Park at the traps flounder catches are being made. Also at the traps east of the ferry there are flounders up to 2 lbs. being taken. Porgies are everywhere in the bay, ranging from small to 1½ pounders. Best areas are buoys 14, 16, 17 and 18, South Ferry and Greenlawn. Still a few weaks at Greenlawn and Crescent Beach on Shelter Island, weaks up to 12 lbs. Big blackfish are in with fish up to 7½ lbs. weighed in this week off Greenlawn with smaller fish taken off the Brickyard. Walter, Peter and Dad Doug Morris and grandfather Olivier from France, had nearly 100 small blues in the 1 lb. class on Hopkins and Krocodile. This was at buoy 10 in front of Greenport. They also had 24 flounder at Pipes Cove up to 1½ lbs. A 44½ lb. striper was taken on bunker chunk on 20 lb. test line fished from Sterling Beach on the Sound late Saturday by Julio Rodriguez of Weehawkin NJ. Julio also had 2 other bass which he dropped and 4 blues which he landed.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt Marty's Fishing Station tells of continuing very good catches of porgies at South Race, buoys 22, 23, 1 and 4. Sunday Sal saw porgies brought in up to 2 lbs. taken on worm, clam and heavy on the chum pot. Also on Sunday, a dozen 3 to 6 lb. weakfish were brought in by his rental skiffs. These fish were taken at buoy 4 and also between the White House and the radio tower on squid.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** tells us that on Sunday Joseph Montgomery, Willie Palmer, Steve Urena, all of Paterson NJ, along with Henry Gibbs of NYC, fished between the Monastery and Gleason Point. They ended up with a large number of porgies and a few fluke. Sand worms and squid was hook bait. Catches were best while on the anchor. Helen fishing with Mom and Pop from the marina fished the channel for 1½ hours and returned with 15 flounders and a large eel. Effective immediately new hours for the station will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6am. to 5p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** reports that the fall run of humpback porgies is on. Much bigger fish are now showing at Plum Island, Gardiners and big Gull Island. More blacks and sea bass are now mixed in with the catches. For those porgy fans who have not filled their freezer yet, now is the time as these fish are getting ready to school up and they're hungry. Best day of this past week was Monday with all anglers getting at least two 5 gallon buckets full of porgies. High hook for the day was Leroy Jones of Bayside with 175 pounds of the jumbo porgies. Worst day of the week was Saturday due to the strong northwest winds. The **Wilhelric** will be concentrating on blackfish on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only. The rest of the week will be devoted to porgies. The boat will switch to blackfish full time once the porgies leave.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that snapper blues are still in good supply and spread all along the area beaches. Decent porgy fishing at the local shoal areas on worms and clams and small blackfish being taken around the pipeline. Tom knew that boatmen were working over the area around buoy 9 and expects that they were still banging away at the blues although he had no concrete reports from anyone fishing the area.

SELDEN

Angler's Den reports lots of blues in the Sound from 3 to 19 lbs. These fish can be trolled or jigged or cast for from the beaches at West Meadow, Miller Place and Shoreham. Casters are scoring with Hopkins, Rebels and Kastmasters. Catches also being made at Crane Neck. Lots of porgies all over the place mainly smalls with patches of larger fish. Blacks are being taken from the beaches and a few from boats. Two to 6 pounders are being taken from the Shoreham jetty with green crabs best. A 45 lb. bass was taken Tuesday night on eels at Great Eastern along with about 33 other bass. Honors for the 45 pounder go to Cleve Georgio.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports the fishing is good with plenty of blues up to 11 lbs. being trolled or jigged off the Pink House in 20' of water. Snappers are outside too up to ¾ lb. and lots of porgies are in around the rocks going from ½ to 1½ lbs. Nice blackfish coming in hitting fiddlers and green crabs at Mt. Misery Shoals at the rocks near the beach, Miller Place and Rocky Point. Some bonito at buoy 9 at Rocky Point mixed in with bluefish.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station tells of 3 to 6 lb. bluefish all over the place at buoy 11 and points east. Fourteen to 18 pounders in the area of Flax Pond and Crane Neck. This is on jigs and umbrellas. Four quantities, seek the smaller blues. Porgies a very strong number at Old Field Point. Lots of humpbacks mixed in. The harbor is infested with sand porgies with two hours on each side of the high best. Some flounders starting in with the porgies. Good blackfish catches on green crab at Old Field Point and the jetties at Mt. Misery Point. Schoolie bass are being trolled with umbrellas bearing white tubes at Crane Neck. Snappers still a good item, particularly around the high, fish in the 9" class.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle tells of good porgy fishing. Dave Hanna of the Bronx had quite a few porgies on worm and clam. Another boat came in with 3 ice chests full of porgies. Some flounders are being caught at the mouth of the river up to 1 lb. on sand worms. Blues are being caught on Rebels and poppers while tons of porgies are in the river.

HUNTINGTON

From **Four Winds Bait and Tackle**, George Valentine reported fast action with blues continues at Eatons Neck. On Friday, Rob Schneider put away 61 blues in the 2-4 lb. class on 3 oz. Tri-Fin Teardrop jigs. Friday afternoon, and Saturday AM big blues showed up in Cold Spring Harbor. Graham Snedecker and Phil Gehring put away 10 of the choppers from 12 to 16½ lbs. on bunker. They lost as many as they landed. The big choppers have also shown up in Huntington Bay and Lloyd Harbor. Excellent porgy action at Marshall Field and Eatons Neck and some good blackfishng in the same areas. On Saturday, Danny Sepanski weighed in blacks of 5.14 and 7.3 which he took on green crabs from the shore at Caumset.

Capt Jim of the **Hi Hook** reports that Saturday and Sunday his passengers did very well on bluefish. High hook was Bill Brown. Pool winner on weakfish was Chris Heckman. This was a charter for the St. Kiliansin Elem. School of Farmingdale. Bluefish this weekend were very good, from 8 to 18 lbs. with passengers getting 7 to 12 fish each. Action was at buoys 13 and 11B. Toby Weel took the pool with a 13 lb. blue. Dennis Teal had 15 fish.

Capt Don of the **Ever Ready** tells of the best catches ever of bluefish this weekend. Saturday morning's run saw James Schneider of Greenlawn boat 35 blues. Albert Mezo of Mt. Vernon got 28 blues and dropped 16. Frank Zodl of Brooklyn, had 21 blues. On Sunday, Zeke Zebrowski was high hook with 11 blues. Delores Schmidt of Woodbury was high hook with 22 porgies. She was also the pool winner with a 2¾ lb. porgy taken off Eaton's Neck. Please see ad for change in sailing schedule.

GLEN COVE

Dave at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that worm trollers have been scoring with bass from Morgan's to Davidsons. A lot of flounder and porgies being taken on worms and clams along the beaches and snapper blues continue in good supply in the harbor. Some blues 12 lbs. and up harassing the bunker in Hempstead Harbor, but this action has been spotty and inconsistent.

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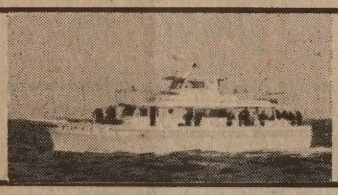

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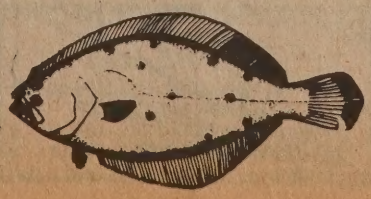

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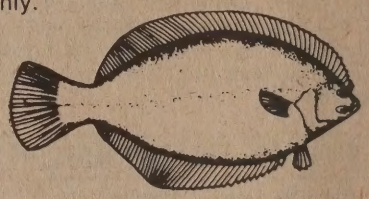
Capt Joe on the **Lady Lil II** called to say that he bluefished over the weekend with very good results. Fish range from 2 to 10 lbs. Pool winner for the week was Jaiem Flushman with a 10 lb. blue. He is from Flushing. Starting Wednesday the boat will begin porgy fishing. Beginning next week the boat will sail Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays only.



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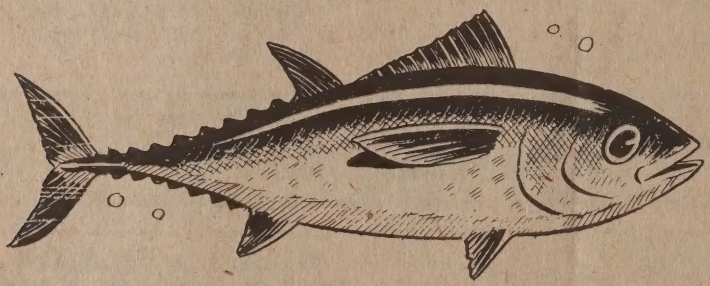
NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES



CITY ISLAND

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** said that big blues in the 10-16 lb. class were raiding the bunker schools near the City Island bridge from Tuesday through Thursday last week. One of the regular shop customers, known as Lefty, clicked with a 20 lber. on a bunker. Plenty of boatmen got in on the action once word of the melee spread. Bass being taken on worms and Rebels around the islands in the area and some blackfish now being taken at Twin Rocks and Execution Light on fiddlers and green crabs.

The open boat **Ebb Tide** has been enjoying excellent porgy action fishing, with fish spread over many sections of the area. While most of the fish average 1/2 to 1 lb., some up to 2 lbs. are taken each day. Hi hook has been putting away up to 80 of the fish. A few small blackfish starting to show in the area also.

★ SAG HARBOR ★

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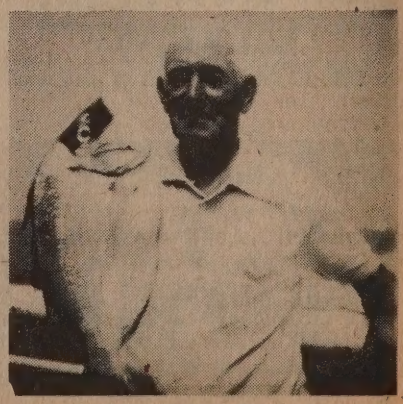

Harry Schwab took the pool on a recent trip aboard the "Ebb Tide II" with a 3 lb. porgy.

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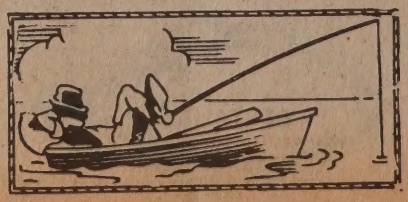

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Casters who fish the Montauk surf should take note that a new organization is being formed by a couple of concerned members of the clan. According to Tony Luca and Jack Yee, the primary purpose of the **Montauk Surfcasters** will be to ensure a good surf fishing environment for the future. Such topics as access and conflicts with commercial fisherman will be among the group's primary concerns. Wherever you're from, if you fish the Point, make an effort to attend the organizational meeting on Saturday, October 4 at 2PM. It will be held in the Chamber of Commerce building on Montauk Highway in Montauk.

The latest scoop on the locked gates at the Cedar Beach Overlook is that these gates will remain locked at night, but will be unlocked at 4AM instead of 7:30 a.m. For night fishermen, access will be available through the Cedar Beach entrance one-quarter mile to the west. While this gate will be locked, a guard will be on duty here to unlock it for bona fide fishermen. Toot your horn and flash your headlights to get his attention.

This appears to be the best we can do for the time being. Babylon Town, like the State Park Commission, is plagued with a burgeoning rate of vandalism and a shortage of personnel, resulting in little or no enforcement. Any suggestions for a better means of resolving this and similar situations are welcomed.

A good number of bass along South Shore beaches and some lively action with bass, weaks and blues highlight this week's report.

South Shore

The North Channel bridge continues to produce big blues and weaks, according to Artie of **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** in Jamaica Bay. Some of the fish checked in in recent days include an 11 lb. blue for Ben Guadagni, a 14½ lb. blue and an 8 lb. weak for Fred McCloud, a 15 lb. weak for Richie Krulish and a 14½ lb. chopper for Joe Digiovanni. All these fish came from the same North Channel bridge and were taken on bunker chunks or fillets on outgoing water.

Steve Creamer of Brooklyn called to report that casters have been taking blues ranging from 4-12 lbs. on bunker chunks at Plum Beach along the Belt Parkway shore. Steve said that bunker are thick as fleas in the area and that most of the action has been on a dropping tide. He also had

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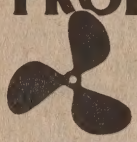

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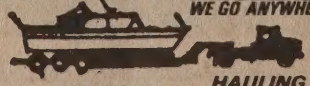

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a fish of his own to report. Fishing the west end surf last Tuesday night, the Brooklyn caster put away a 14 lb. striper after dark on a blue Darter. It was the only fish taken that night from what he could gather talking to other anglers on the beach.

From his East Rockaway Tackle Shop, Skippy told me that there has been good bass action on plugs through the Rockaways and Atlantic Beach, as well as at Long Beach. Plenty of mullet in the wash have made the fish susceptible to poppers and swimming plugs.

Bernie Haag relayed word from the **Long Beach Sports Marina** that bass fishing at Atlantic Beach looked like old times this past week. Three youngsters ranging in age from 13 to 15 years old, checked in a catch of 22 school bass taken on popping plugs from one of the local rock piles. One caster who requested anonymity took a 24 lb. bass on an Atom 40.

In the same general area, Mike Lang of Long Beach clicked with a 31¾ lb. striper on a Danny plug Thursday. He had a 26 lber. on Tuesday as well. He reported to Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** in Island Park that fish were taken by other casters as well and that there were plenty of mullet along the beach. Charlie also had reports of big blues showing up in the Point Lookout surf and beaches to the east.

Great South Bay Anglers Club member Stevie Jendricks used a Jr. Atom Tuesday night to beach a 17 lb. striper at Moriches. Fishing Robert Moses State Park, fellow club member Jack Higgins used a chunk of bunker to put away a bluefish of 17 lbs. and change.

From his Babylon Tackle Shop (Augie's) Ralph told me that he weighed in fish of 40 and 25 lbs. for casters this week. They would not say where the fish were taken, but Ralph knew they were taken on bait. Democrat Point has been producing fish for the past two weeks, so it's a good bet that they came from that area. Boatmen are enjoying a good run of fish in the Fire Island area, so it appears that there is a decent body of fish around for a change.

Out in Shinnecock, Bruce told me from **Speck's Tackle Shop** that bass are being taken in the inlet, from the front and back of the jetty on eels and plugs. One caster scored with four bass Saturday evening-Sunday AM. The bigger fish are being taken on eels, while popping plugs and Redfins have been taking the school fish. A couple of big blues have been picked up by bait fishermen in the same area. Fish have ranged from 12 to 18 lbs.

Johnny Kronuch is pleased to report a good weekend at the Point. Most of the action is concentrated up front between Jones and Turtle Cove. While weakfish have been providing the bulk of the action, there have been enough bass around to make things interesting. Saturday night provided the best bass fishing in quite some time under the light. Among those scoring were Brian Wilson who had 3 nice fish up to 33½ lbs., Angelo Curci, who had a 23 lber. and Tony Luca who had a fish of 22 on Saturday night and a 26 lber. Friday night. Friday night was predominantly weakfish and weaks were again mixed with the bass Saturday PM. While the area around the light slacked off Sunday night, there was some decent action at Jones reef. Johnny himself drilled a 27 lb. striper out of the wash here, while his fishing partner Tommy Sepp had a couple of fish in the 10 to 12 lb. class. Also Saturday night, a few big blues in the 15 lb. range were taken by casters who were forced to work Turtle Cove because of the crowd under the light. Johnny added that nearly all the action has been on yellow super strike darters.

North Shore

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** said that big blues again invaded the bunker schools in the vicinity of the City Island Bridge. Rampaging choppers turned the water white as they ed on the densely packed schools of bunker. Action lasted from Tuesday through Thursday and while most of the blues are in the 10 to 16 lb. class, and 18 lber. was weighed in by Angelo Santiago. Bass fishing continued in Turtle Cove, the Orchard Beach Lagoon and from the shore near the Throgs Neck Bridge. Sand worms, strips of bunker fillet and small Rebels have been accounting for bass ranging from shorts up to 7 lbs.

A few bass starting to be taken along the beaches by close-mouthed locals, according to Dave of the **Glen Cove Sports Shop**. Also some big harbor blues being picked up on bunker chunks along the Sea Cliff shore of Hempstead Harbor.

Finally some worthwhile surf action, according to George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle**. Blues in the 5 to 7 lb. class kept casters busy early Friday and Saturday mornings and also in the evenings at Lilco. While tin was the ticket here, casters also scored using bait as Caumset. In addition, Tri-Fin eel worms took a few school bass along this same shore.

Out in Rocky Point, Stan told me from his **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** that Sunday evening, blues in the 2-5 lb. class were spread along the beach from Hagerman's Landing to Shoreham. Tins and plugs resulted in some decent action for casters who happened to be on the scene. No bass news from this area, with the exception of some fish being taken by local gill netters.

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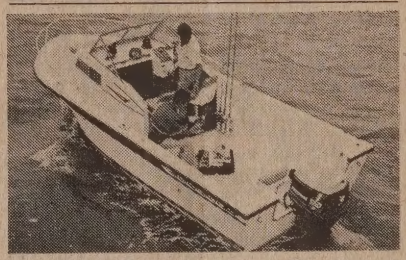

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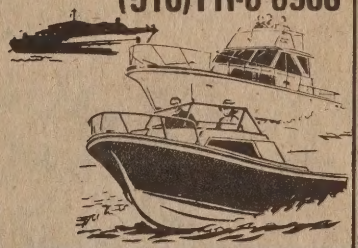

John Russell shows off the pool winning blue he landed aboard the Montauk open boat "Marlin IV." Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

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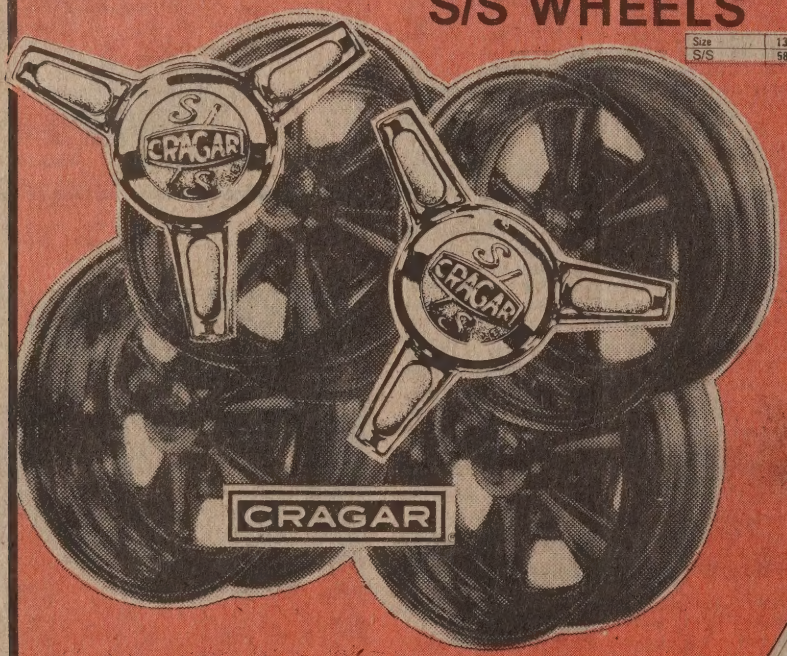

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